



PHOTO: STAR

Breach of the protection embankment on the Teesta River at Kalmati village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila during the last three days caused devouring of dozens of homesteads, a large area of farmland and a high school by the river.

MORE 100 METRES OF DYKE COLLAPSES

## School, homesteads go into Teesta riverbed

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The Teesta devoured a high school, 60 homesteads and large areas of cultivable lands and orchards as 100 metres of protection embankment collapsed from Wednesday evening to yesterday morning.

Earlier 50 metres of embankment collapsed on Tuesday.

More 250 metres of dyke is also under the threat due to strong current from the upstream, leaving many homesteads, cultivable lands, orchards and important establishments in the village vulnerable to erosion

by the Teesta River, said Water Development Board (WDB) officials.

"Academic building of Kalmati Adarsha High School was devoured by Teesta after collapse of the protection embankment. The dyke collapsed after one year of its construction as low quality and less than required quantity of materials was used for the purpose," said Nayeab Ali Miah, headmaster of the school.

"The government allocated the funds as per requirement for constructing the embankment but most of it was embezzled jointly by a section of WDB

officials, contractors and local ruling party men," he alleged.

Hamid Uddin, an erosion-hit villager said his homestead, four bighas of land with standing crops and a banana orchard were devoured by the Teesta from Wednesday morning to yesterday noon as the dyke collapsed under the pressure of strong current from the upstream.

Local Union Parishad member Enamul Haque also blamed use of low quality and insufficient quantity of materials by WDB for collapse of the dyke after one year of its

construction.

Golam Robbani, sub-assistant engineer of WDB in Lalmonirhat, said, "WDB has already started working to check the erosion through dumping sandbags in the affected area. One hundred labourers are working there. WDB must check the erosion anyhow."

Enayet Ullah, executive engineer of Lalmonirhat WDB, said, "WDB is trying hard to save the rest of the dyke and check the erosion. The dyke collapsed due to heavy current of the Teesta from the upstream, not for construction problem."

### 212 kg hilsa seized in Satkhira

UNB, Satkhira

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in a drive seized 212 kg hilsa fish worth Tk 2.12 lakh from Alipur area in Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Major Majhar, operation officer of Satkhira BGB Battalion-38, said on secret information, they launched a drive and seized the fish when some people were smuggling those to India through Bhompura.

Sensing the presence of the BGB men, the smugglers fled the scene, said the major.

A case was filed with Satkhira Sadar Police Station in this connection, he said.

### Housewife killed over family feud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A housewife was killed allegedly by her sister-in-law at Kadirpur village in Khaliyaji upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Apon Rani Sarker, wife of Dhirandra Chandra Sarker of the village.

Abul Kalam, officer in-charge of Khaliyaji Police Station, said Apona quarreled with her sister-in-law Alpana Rani Sarker, wife of Pranob Chandra Sarker, following a family feud.

At one stage of altercation, Alpana attacked Apona with a sharp weapon, leaving her dead on the spot.

The law enforcers arrested Alpana in connection with the killing, said the OC.

A murder case was filed in this regard, he said.

## Hilsa catches poor in peak season

Robbery adds to fishermen's woe

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Crisis of hilsa coupled with threat of robbers frustrates the fishermen during the ongoing peak catching season of the popular fish in the southern region.

"We get fishes worth Tk 40-50 thousand per trip of a trawler although Tk 75 thousand to one lakh is spent for the purpose. The situation has continued for the last two months. Now the coming month remains our last hope," said Shahidul Islam, owner of a trawler in Sharonkhola of Bagerhat.

"We are concerned about getting back the money lent to the fishermen as hilsa is

not available in the sea," said Nasir Uddin, a wholesaler of Parerhat fish landing station in Pirojpur.

Besides, pirates often kidnap fishermen and force them to pay Tk 2-3 lakh as ransom by serious physical torture and threat of killing.

Twenty-five fishermen kidnapped by robbers from Rajeshwar area of Sharonkhola a few days ago are yet not rescued.

"Robbers seized my fishing boat 29 times and every time I had to give good amount of money to get it back," said Humayun Kabir of Sharonkhola.

Pirates who use reserve forest areas of the Sundarbans as their safe

haven enter the sea through Kotka, Dudhmukhi and Narikelbaria canals, local fishermen said, adding that illegal fishing by Indian fishermen from Bangladesh sea area also adds to hilsa crisis.

"As we contribute a lot to the government's earning, the authorities should take proper steps to save us from the criminals," said Anwar Hossain, a trawler owner of Sharonkhola.

Captain Mazed, commander of West Zone of coastguard, said, "We always arrange patrol in the rivers and take steps against the robbers. We will try to set a team in the Shela River within a short time to save the fishermen."



PHOTO: STAR

Trawlers ready to start for fishing in the sea lie anchored at Parerhat fish landing station in Pirojpur. Fishermen, however, are frustrated as the ongoing peak catching season sees poor catches of the popular fish-hilsa.

TWO PERSONS SERVE AS HEADMASTERS

## Classes at school for mentally challenged get hampered

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Classes in Patuakhali Buddhi Pratibandhi School, the lone school for mentally challenged children in the district, is badly hampered as two persons are working as headmasters there.

Set up at Kolerpukurpar in Patuakhali town in 1994, the school presently enrolls 127 mentally challenged children in three classes -- pre-primary class, class one and technical class.

But due to the disturbing situation centring the post of headmaster, classes are not held regularly and only 25 to 30 students now come to the school regularly.

From the beginning, four teachers including the headmaster started working there.

After headmaster Sumon Kumar Das left the school on November 1 in 2012 Nur-E-Rashid Maksuda, a senior teacher, started serving as acting headmaster as per instruction by Md Hemayet Uddin Ahmed, general secretary of Swid Bangladesh, the donor agency that provides fund for running the school.

On April 23 this year, the donor agency promoted Maksuda as regular head-

master and an official order to this effect reached the school duly. Maksuda also received salaries for the months of January to March this year as headmaster.

But on April 29, Abu Naeem, secretary of Patuakhali unit of Swid Bangladesh, issued a letter, saying that Monir Hossain, another teacher of the school, was promoted to the post of headmaster.

The local unit committee also stopped paying salaries to Maksuda although the donor agency sent her salaries from April to June.

"The donor agency made

me headmaster and approved my pay scale accordingly as I have necessary qualification. Decision of the local committee is illegal," Nur-E-Rashid Maksuda said.

Monir Hossain, on the other hand, said he is conducting his job as headmaster as per decision of the local committee.

Swapan Kumer Mukharjee, acting deputy director of social welfare department in Patuakhali, said, "We only give registration to this type of school to ensure educational rights to mentally challenged chil-

dren. We have no other function with such an institution."

Abu Naeem, secretary of Patuakhali unit of Swid, said, "The donor agency cannot impose any decision without taking opinion of the local committee. Everything will be okay in time."

When contacted, Amita Sarker, deputy commissioner of Patuakhali, said, "I have heard the matter and already asked the additional deputy commissioner to check all the papers concerned. I will take step after examining the papers."



## Jubo Dal leader shot dead in Laxmipur

UNB, Laxmipur

A Jubo Dal leader was shot dead by unidentified criminals in Kaptan bridge area under Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday.

The dead, Azad Uddin, 30, was office secretary of Mandari union unit Jubo Dal and son of late Nurul Islam of Gandhyapur village in the upazila.

Police quoted family as saying that an unknown gang called Azad out of his house over cellphone at around 3:00am. They shot him point blank and left the scene. Azad died on the spot.

Being informed by locals, police went to the spot at noon, recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital

morgue for autopsy.

Altaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said Azad was wanted in several cases. "We have launched a drive to arrest the persons involved in the killing," he said.

Our Bhola correspondent reported that a man was murdered at Kharakandi village under Lalmohan upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Chan Mia, 60, of Dalal Bari at the village.

Mahfuzur Rahman, ASP of Lalmohan Circle, said Chan Mia might have been killed over a land dispute with his neighbours. Police are investigating the matter, he added.

## Intra-party clashes leave 70 AL men injured

STAR COUNTRY DESK

At least 70 Awami League men were injured in intra party clashes in Meherpur and Faridpur districts yesterday and the day before.

In Meherpur, more than 20 people were injured in a clash between two factions of AL at Tetulbaria village in Sadar upazila yesterday, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

Several houses were also vandalised during the hour long clash, said Sub-Inspector Shamsul Alam.

The clash took place between the supporters of two rival groups of the upazila unit—one led by Safi Uddin and the other by Abdul Hannan--over holding a programme on National Mourning Day.

The rival groups exploded around 20 cocktails during the incident, leaving 20 from both sides injured.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, said the SI.

Away in Faridpur, at least 50 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of AL over establishing supremacy at Sonatandi and Ballovidi villages in Saltha upazila on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Of them, six were admitted to Faridpur Medical College and Hospital in critical condition while the rest given first aid.

Afsar Uddin, officer in-

charge of Saltha Police Station, said there was a long-standing conflict between Shahin Khandoker, general secretary of Ballovidi union unit AL, and Kazi Delwar Hossain, vice president of Saltha upazila unit AL, over taking control the villages.

As a sequel to the conflict, supporters of Shahin and Delwar equipped with lethal weapons attacked each another on Wednesday, leaving at least 50 from both sides injured.

During the clash, several houses were reportedly looted and vandalised.

Contacted, Shahin and Delwar blamed each other for the incident.

## SNIPPETS

### Jamaat man arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Police arrested a local Jamaat leader at Barapara village in Daudkandi upazila early yesterday. The arrestee is Kamruzzaman Sarkar, 30, general secretary of Titas upazila unit Jamaat. Kamruzzaman was arrested on charge of vandalising a covert van in the area on Tuesday during the Jamaat called 48-hour countrywide hartal, said Abul Paysal, officer in-charge of Daudkandi Police Station.

### 12 cocktails seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized at least 12 cocktails on Shaheed Zia College campus of Joypurhat district on Wednesday night. Informed that a group of Shibir men were holding a secret meeting on the campus to carry out subversive activities, a team of Rab-5 raided the area and seized the cocktails. However, the Shibir activists managed to flee, sensing the presence of the elite force, said Assistant Superintendent of Police Sheikh Jahedul Islam.

### Youth jailed for stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A mobile court sentenced a young man to one year's imprisonment for stalking a housewife at Palokury village in Dupchanchia upazila on Tuesday. The convict is Shahidul Islam, 22, son of Akkash Ali of the village. Police said Shahidul often teased the woman. On information, a police team arrested the youth on Tuesday afternoon and produced him before the court, led by Executive Magistrate Mamunur Rashid, which pronounced the verdict, said Riaz Ahmad, officer in-charge of Dupchanchia Police Station.

### Arms, bullets recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized a US made pistol, two magazines and three bullets from a train at Jessore railway station on Wednesday. However, none was arrested in this connection, said BGB sources. On secret information, a team of Jessore 26 BGB raided the Khulna-bound Rupsha Express and seized the arms and bullets.

### Boy electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A teenage boy was electrocuted in Juri upazila on Tuesday midnight. The deceased was identified as Salman Miah, 12, son of Nesar Ali of Somaybazar area in the upazila. Police said Salman came in contact with a live electric wire when he was working at a field in the area. The boy was rushed to the hospital in critical condition where he died after sometime.



PHOTO: STAR

This 300-seater Demu train, starting its test journey from Parbatipur at 10:30am yesterday, arrives at Dinajpur railway station at 11:30am, and gets ready to start for Thakurgaon half an hour later. Another Demu train on Parbatipur-Lalmonirhat route also started its test run yesterday.