



Regular dumping of garbage, as per recent arrangement of the authorities of nearby Mymensingh municipality, badly affects the environment of the already dying Puratan Brahmaputra River. The photo was taken yesterday.

Massive garbage dumping pollutes Old Brahmaputra

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Huge garbage including that from sacrificial animals is being dumped into the Puratan Brahmaputra River at Puran Godaraghat in the town, adding to serious pollution of the already dying river.

The callous act has continued since October 17, much to the nuisance of around 1400 families living in the slums adjacent to the area, residents said.

Kids reading in five pre-primary schools run by NGOs in the slums are the worst sufferers due to the odour from the garbage, they added.

"Over 500 people involved in sand business near the dumping spot are

facing serious problem. We have asked the workers not to dump garbage here but they repeatedly told about the authorities' order," said Ariful Islam Jhony, a sand trader.

Around 100 tonnes of garbage is being dumped into the river daily although it is not a usual dumping spot of the municipality, said Mohabbat Ali, conservation inspector, and Dipak Majumder, sanitary inspector of the municipality, both assigned for garbage dumping.

Ekramul Haque Titu, mayor of the municipality, said the decision was taken to dump the garbage including that from sacrificial animals into the river for the better interest of the town

dwellers.

As serious traffic jam hinders carrying of garbage to the dumping point at Moilakanda, on the other side of Shambhuganj Bridge on different occasions, the waste is being dumped at Puran Godaraghat, he added.

He, however, admitted harmful consequences of the act on environment.

Protesting garbage dumping into the river, NGO Phulki organised a human chain at Mymensingh Shaheb Quarter Park on Friday. The speakers at the programme under the banner of 'Save Brahmaputra' urged the authorities concerned to stop garbage dumping and illegal sand lifting from different points

of the river.

Contacted, Md Yousuf Ali, assistant director [Technical] of the Department of Environment in Mymensingh, said, "The department is yet to know the matter. At a meeting before the Eid-ul-Azha, the municipality authority was asked to dump the garbage at its selected locations. Garbage dumping into the river is a serious violation of environment laws."

Nurul Amin Kalam, secretary of Mymensingh Nagorik Andolon, said, "We urged the municipality authorities to stop garbage dumping into the river. If they do not stop the unwise act immediately, we will go for movement soon."

Market, road face river onslaught

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Erosion by the River Brahmaputra has taken a serious turn, threatening Gaibandha-Kamarjani road and Taltola Bazar in Sadar upazila.

At least 50 families were rendered homeless and a number of shops and structures went into the river in the last three days.

The erosion-hit people have already taken shelter on roads and high lands, said an official of local Water Development Board (WDB).

The river devoured about one kilometer of the road and a major portion of the bazar during the period, said locals.

Jamil Hossain, a local trader, said "My family depends on the business

centre at Taltola Bazar which is now under threat of erosion".

"Kamarjani river ghat is famous for jute and paddy market where customers from remote areas throng twice a week for procuring raw jute and paddy. The road here plays a vital role to carry paddy and jute for loading trawlers bounded for Dhaka, Narayanganj and other districts, but it now faces threat of erosion", said Sakmol Hossain, chairman of Kamarjani Union Parishad.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities are yet to take any steps to thwart the erosion, said the chairman.

G a i b a n d h a W D B Executive Engineer said we wrote to the higher authorities for fund in this regard but to no response yet.

22 shops gutted

STAR COUNTRY DESK

As many as 22 shops were gutted in fire incidents in Siraganj and Chandpur yesterday and the day before.

Our Pabna correspondent reported that seven shops in Siraganj Boro Bazar were gutted in a fire early yesterday.

Fire fighters said the originated from a grocery shop of one Kamol Ghosh at around 4:00am and soon spread to six adjacent shops at the market.

Being informed, a firefighting unit rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after one hour of frantic efforts.

In Chandpur, At least 15 shops were destroyed by a fire that broke out at Natun Bazar in Matlab (North) Upazila on Friday.

Locals said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop at around 4:00pm and soon engulfed 14 other adjoining shops.

Shaheed Minar vandalised in Birganj upazila

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Criminals damaged the Shaheed Minar on the premises of Sanka High School in Birganj upazila under the district on Wednesday night.

"The Shaheed Minar was all right on Wednesday. But on Thursday two of its three pillars were found broken. Criminals damaged the Shaheed Minar sometime on Wednesday night," Md Obaidul Islam, headmaster of Sanka High School, told reporters.

Later he informed the school managing committee president of the matter.

The managing committee members yesterday held an emergency meeting and filed a general diary with Birganj police station.

Md Arman Hossain,

Attack on journo's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

BNP and Jamaat-Shibir men attacked the house of a journalist at Ranirbandar in Chirirbandar upazila early yesterday.

They also assaulted the family members of Fazlur Rahman, Chirirbandar upazila correspondent of daily Protham Khabar and Swarna Sakal, published from Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.

Locals said at least 60 activists, led by BNP leader Nure Alam Siddiqui Nayan, swooped on the house of Fazlur around 1:00am.

FRIDAY'S VIOLENCE IN LAXMIPUR 535 BNP-Jamaat men sued

UNB, Laxmipur

Police yesterday filed a case against 535 activists of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami in connection with Friday's violence in Ramganj upazila.

Shaikat Ali, sub-inspector of Ramganj Police Station, filed the case against 35 identified and 500 unidentified men in the morning.

After filing of the case, police arrested 10 BNP-Jamaat men from different areas of the district.

On Friday, at 30 people

were injured, seven with bullets, during a clash between the activists of BNP and Awami League and police in Satarpa area of Ramganj upazila.

Police also arrested 15 people on the spot.

In Mymensingh, two local leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami were arrested in Trishal upazila headquarters on Friday.

The arrestees are Nazrul Islam, general secretary of Trisal upazila unit of Jamaat, and Abdullah, ameer of the same unit.

Officer-in-Charge Firoj Talukder of Trishal Police Station said a group of Jamaat men led by their two leaders brought out a procession in the area at around 4:00pm and tried to put up a barricade on the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway.

On information, police rushed to the spot, chased the Jamaat activists and arrested the two leaders on the spot.

Later, they were shown arrested in a case for carrying out subversive activities.

Tk 47 lakh snatched from five traders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Criminals snatched Tk 47 lakh from five traders near Ambagan area beside Jhenidah-Jessore highway in Kaliganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

Haji Shukur Ali, one of the victims, said they were going to Jessore from Ishwardi upazila of Pabna to Razarhat Market in Jessore in a microbus.

"When we reached near Ambagan area at around 4:00pm, a gang of eight

criminals on board a silver colour microbus intercepted our vehicle," Shukkar said, adding that the criminals, introducing themselves as Rab personnel took control of the microbus at gun point.

The gang physically assaulted all the five traders and took away Tk 47.10 lakh from them.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Monirul Islam Mollah of Kaliganj Police Station said no one filed any case in connection with such incident as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Robbers loot 14 houses

A CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Robbers looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth Tk 7 lakh from 14 houses at Shibnagar Modhupur village in Damurhuda upazila of the district on Friday night.

Police quoted locals as saying that a gang of 20 to 25 robbers entered the house of one Rafikul Islam of Shibnagar Modhupur vil-

lage by breaking open the door at around 10:00pm and looted valuables.

The robbers later stormed into 13 more houses at the village and took away Tk one lakh, eight tolas of gold ornaments and several mobile sets at gunpoint.

Sensing the presence of the robbers at the village, locals chased the bandits, who managed to flee, exploding a bomb. None, however, was injured in the bomb attack.



Devotees throng the premises of Ajita Mahathero Dhyani Bihar in Bandarban town Friday on the occasion of Kathin Chibar Daan, offering of home-spun robe to venerable Bhadanto (Ajita Mahathero, chief monk of the bihar (monastery). The yearly arrangement is also the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community in Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

Two killed, 25 injured in clashes over land disputes

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people were killed and 25 others were injured in clashes over land disputes in Dinajpur and Habiganj districts on Friday.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reported that a man was killed and 15 others were injured in a clash over harvest of paddy on a disputed land in Hakimpur upazila.

The dead was identified as Md Morsaleen Mia, 14, son of Oman Ali of Rikabi Chakchaka village in the upazila.

The injured were admitted to Hakimpur Upazila Health Complex.

According to police, two groups of villagers—one led by Md Shamser Ali and the other by Sirajul Islam—locked in a clash when Shamser's men went to harvest paddy from 73

decimals of land at the village in the afternoon.

The rival groups equipped with lethal weapons swooped on each other, leaving at least 16 people from both sides injured.

Of the injured, Morsaleen, a class VIII student of Rikabi Chakchaka Madrasa, was rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries yesterday morning.

Hearing the news, teachers and students of Rikabi Chakchaka Madrasa brought out a procession at Hakimpur upazila headquarter yesterday demanding arrest of the killers of Morsaleen.

No case in connection with the clash was filed with Hakimpur Police Station as of 5:00pm yesterday.

Our Moulvibazar Bazar correspondent Adds: One person was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two groups over capture of disputed land at Haripur village in Baniachong Upazila of Habiganj district on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Sahadat Ali.

The clash ensued when a group led by Churab Ali attacked Mukit Miah's men when they were trying to capture the land at the village in the morning.

Sahadat Ali, brother of Mukit Miah, died on the while 10 others from both sides sustained injuries during the clash that continued for an hour.

The injured were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Couple found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police recovered the bodies of a couple from a house in Char Tepakhola area of the town yesterday. The deceased are Mir Shamsul Haque, 75, a retired naval official and his wife Nargis Nahar, 60. Syed Mohsinul Haque, officer in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said on information, police recovered the bodies from the house at Munshidangi village. Criminals might have killed the couple, said the OC. However, the reason behind the killing could not be known immediately, he said.

3 held with yaba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three people at Chandrima Residential Hotel in the town early yesterday and seized 250 pieces of yaba tablets from their possession. The arrestees are Md Noor Mia, 40, son of Md Abdul Khaleque of the municipality, Md Manik Mia, 30, son of Md Abdul Khaleque of Borishol village in Sadar upazila and Md Ziaur Rahman, 30, son of Habibur Rahman of Nuagong village in Kasba upazila. On secret information, a team of Rab-9 raided a room of the hotel and arrested the trio along with the yaba tablets. They also seized a motorbike from the spot, said Rab sources.

Body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Police recovered the body of an unidentified man from Ziglatoli area in Daudkandi upazila yesterday morning. Locals found his body lying in the area and informed police. The body was sent to Comilla Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy. Criminals might have killed the man and dumped the body in the area, said Officer In-Charge of Daudkandi Police Station. A case was filed in this connection.

Man electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A man was electrocuted at Dhobabila village in Sadar upazila yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Israil Hossain, 42, son of Gogla Hossain of Dhobabila village. Family sources said Israil came in contact with a live electric wire when he tried to collect leaves from a jackfruit near his house. He was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Youth 'commits suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A youth allegedly committed suicide at Senpur village in Nangolkot upazila on Thursday morning. The deceased is Swapon Miah, 26, of Senpur village. Police said Swapon took his life by hanging himself from the ceiling of his room following an altercation with his wife over family feud. The body was sent to Comilla Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Confce on acid survivors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A two-day long national conference on acid survivors ended in the district yesterday. A total of 87 acid survivors, including children, from 15 districts took part in conference organised by Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) at Proshika HRDC Trust in Koitta under Saturaia upazila. Executive Director of CPD (Center for Policy Dialogue) and Chairperson of ASF Dr Iftekharuzzaman presided over the programme where secretary to Women and Children Affairs Ministry Tarik-UI-Islam was present as chief guest. Addressing the programme, the speakers said we need to create awareness against acid violence.

Two BNP men stabbed

UNB, Bagerhat

Criminals stabbed two local associate body leaders of BNP at Mandartola in Kachua upazila on Friday. The victims are Nurul Islam Sheikh, 30, vice president of 7-ward unit Juba Dal of Gajalia union, and Mujibur Rahman, 45, vice president of the ward unit Jatiyatabadi Matsyajibi Dal. Ali Reza Babu, general secretary of Bagerhat district unit BNP, alleged that a gang of 12, led by two leaders of AL, attacked Nurul and Mujibur with sharp weapons in the area in the morning, leaving them injured. Contacted, the local AL refuted the allegation of attack.

What's in name?

FROM PAGE 16

The 100-year-old Priebke died two weeks ago while living under house arrest in Rome for his role in the massacre of 335 people in the Ardeatine complex of caves near Rome in 1944.

The Nazi was unrepentant to the end, and his grandson had no contact with him after he was extradited then sentenced to life in prison three years later.

"When my grandfather died, I thought I would feel a little more peace, that I would get a break from so much pain, but the truth is not really," said Tomas Priebke Ortiz, who has not seen his father Jorge Priebke for two years since his parents separated.

"I don't identify with that name. I don't have much connection with my (paternal) family nor with my dad," he said.

In the video interview, Tomas Priebke Ortiz said that what triggered his decision was the response his father gave when a reporter asked about the elderly Priebke's burial after Germany, Italy and Argentina responded unfavorably to receiving the body.