



PHOTO: STAR

Two women at Char Bairati in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat give a bleak look as winter in the northern district has set in a bit early this year to add to the sufferings of poor people, especially those living in the char villages in the Teesta River basin area.

CHAR AREAS IN LALMONIRHAR

Early winter adds to the woe of poor people

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Winter in the northern district seems to have arrived early this year, adding to the suffering of poor people, especially those living in the Teesta and Dharla river basin char (landmass emerged from riverbed) areas of the district.

These people have started feeling biting cold during the morning and night as most of them wait for warm cloths the help from the government or non-government organizations.

The regional Met office in Rangpur recorded the lowest temperature 20.3 degrees Celsius and highest temperature 26.5 degrees Celsius in the last one week this year but it was recorded lowest 18.05 degrees and highest 30.02 degrees Celsius at the same period last year.

As the difference between lowest and highest temperature is less than the last year's, the people have started feeling biting cold in the region, said Atiqur Rahman, meteorologist in Rangpur regional Met office.

"Due to climate change,

the winter knocks in this region in the early this year. "People got little bite of cold during the morning and night in the last year 2012 but it brings heavy cold biting feeling at same in this region this year," said Mamunur Rashid, environment and agriculture coordinator of NGO RDRS.

Local people said every year they faced winter in late November or early December but this year winter touched them in the last week of October.

"Working as a day labourer, I have to maintain my six-member family. I am not able to purchase warm cloths. Early winter brings sorrow for us," said Mezbau

Islam, 52, a day labourer at Bowalmari Char village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Meher Shaikh, 60, a farmer at Char Kalmati village in the same upazila, said farm labourers become late to join their work in the morning and they go back home before 5:00pm due to the biting cold.

Early winter makes their life miserable as many of them have no warm cloths, he said.

Mohosinul Haque, district relief and rehabilitation officer in Lalmonirhat, said he sent letter seeking warm cloths to the ministry concerned last week, as the winter arrived early in this region this year.

Robbers loot house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Robbers looted valuables worth about Tk five lakh from a rice mill owner's house in Biral upazila of the district early yesterday hours.

They also injured two of the family members as they tried to resist them. The injured are mill owner Tohidul Islam and Saiful Islam. They are undergoing treatment at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

Police and locals said a gang of 10 to 12 robbers stormed into the houses of Tohidul Islam, owner of Tofiza Rice Mill, at Nawpara village at around 2:00am.

The robbers hit Tohidul Saiful with sharp weapons as they tried to resist them. They confined other members of the family to a room and looted five tolas of gold ornaments, a motorbike and Tk 6,000 from the house.

Enmity between 2 families brings misery to many

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A day after Eid-ul-Azha exactly two years ago this day, two extended families of Penakhali village under Nazirpur upazila, set aside the festivities and locked into a fierce clash that left two killed, 150 injured and 98 houses in ashes.

The Daria family with around 250 members and the Sheikh with 50, have both suffered in the long standing enmity. Each lost a member in the violent clash but the Daria alone lost their homes to arson. Following the attack, the Darias filed a case, accusing 400 people while the Sheikh accused 21 people in their case against the Daria.

The enmity between

the two families has been so intense that following the clash the district administration had to set up two permanent police camps with 40 armed policemen there.

Many of the Daria families who lost their homes and valuables are now living in makeshift houses in misery.

Salek Daria, 60, who has been living under a makeshift roof since he lost his house to arson, said with his meager income as a day laborer he could not afford to build a new house. Mosarrof Daria, 65, another victim has been living at his cousin's houses since the devastation.

The Darias are now in fear of harassments by police posted in the village because, they alleged,

police there have good terms with local Jubo League leader Tipu Sultan, who had led the attacks on the Daria family two years ago.

Interestingly Tipu Sultan was dropped from their list of criminals involved, which is something that worries the victims. "A local ruling party leader is also trying to save Tipu Sultan," said a Daria victim.

"We had to drop Tipu Sultan from the charge sheet, as he submitted some documents proving his absence on the spot during the attack," said S M Aktheruzzaman, superintendent of police (SP) in Pirojpur. However, two years on, the police are yet to submit charge sheets in the cases.

Housewife killed for dowry in Comilla

Another commits 'suicide' in Sylhet

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry at Jorkanon-Bothram village in Sadar Dakkshin upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Konika Rani, 22 wife of Ratan Chandra Shil of the village.

Officer-in-Charge Gazi Shawkat Hossain of Sadar Dakkshin Police Station said Konika Rani of the same village married Ratan three years ago.

Neighbours said Ratan and his family members used to torture Konika for dowry. Following an altercation over the issue, Ratan on Wednesday night beat up Konika, resulting her death on the spot, they added.

Being informed, police went to the spot, recovered

the body and sent it to Comilla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Konika's brother filed a murder case with the police station concerned yesterday morning, accusing Ratan and his family members. None was arrested as of filing of this report at 5:00pm.

In Sylhet, a newly married housewife committed 'suicide' at Chandpur village in Jagannathpur upazila on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Jaba Rani Debnath, 23, wife of Bijon.

Kumar Debnath of Jamargaon village in Chatak upazila.

Quoting family members, police said Jaba hanged herself from ceiling at her father's house.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

A worker climbs a date tree to collect juice that becomes available early winter. The photo was taken from Saltha upazila under Faridpur district on Thursday.

Job Opportunity in Swanirvar Bangladesh Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Swanirvar Bangladesh is a reputed national NGO engaged in Multi Sectoral development activities both in rural and urban areas with emphasis on human development, women empowerment and poverty alleviation. Its major spheres of activities include health, nutrition and family welfare, literacy and skill development, micro credit, environmental improvement and the like. It works in close cooperation with different agencies of the Government of Bangladesh and national and international organizations. Swanirvar Bangladesh invites application from Bangladeshi nationals for the post of its Chief Operating Officer (COO).

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