

# Farmers along Narasunda upbeat as the river gets new lease of life

RAJIB PAUL, Kishoreganj

The River Narasunda, which was dying due to a dam built 33 years ago at the confluence of the river Brahmaputra, would soon have a new lease of life.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under a Tk 68.46 crore project has already completed widening the 33-kilometre long river between 120 to 170 feet over a length of 29 kilometres.

Once the widening work of the project is completed, its bed will be dredged to a depth of between six and 12 feet, LGED engineers said.

The old dam would also be replaced with a regulatory sluice gate to control water flow during monsoon and flood, they said.

Over the years, land grabbers feasted on the river while the time-consuming process of recovering the river had delayed the work within the township, officials said.

The Narasunda, having a three-kilometre long branch, originates from the Brahmaputra and crisscrosses Kishoreganj town to join the Dhaleshwari River at Majikhabon.

Gopal Prasad Chowdhury, district executive engineer of LGED, said that under the same project six new bridges and a three-kilometre long walkway



PHOTO: STAR

**Narasunda River in Kishoreganj, which was dying due to a dam built 33 years ago, is being widened and dredged under a Tk 69 crore project to give it a new lease of life.**

would be built on the bank of the river in the town.

"We are now waiting for a dredger that was approved by the Water Development Board and hopefully we will be able to complete the job as scheduled in June 2014," Chowdhury said.

AK Mazharul Haq, chair-

man of the Department of English at Gurudayal Government College and a permanent resident of Kishoreganj, said if implemented as planned, the project would change the face of the district.

"The environment of the town would improve signifi-

cantly and thousands of farmers along the river would benefit immensely," Haq added.

Farmers along the banks of the revived river, who used to spend huge amounts of money for extracting groundwater for irrigation, expressed their

joy due to dredging of the Narasunda.

Momena Akhter, 75, said her father and husband used to catch fish in the river and irrigate croplands with its water.

"Now I feel happy that my grandsons can also benefit from the river like

## OCT 19 INCIDENT 14 BNP men sent to jail in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A court in Joypurhat on Tuesday sent 14 BNP leaders and activists to jail on Tuesday, rejecting their bail prayers in a case for setting ablaze a private car of a BNP lawmaker and 15 motorcycles on October 19.

Police said, the BNP leaders and activists appeared before the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in the afternoon, seeking bail. But the court rejected the bail prayers and sent them to Joypurhat jail.

According to the FIR, Md. Golam Mostafa, lawmaker of Joypurhat-2 was holding a party meeting at BNP party office in Khetlal upazila of Joypurhat on October 19 afternoon.

At the meeting, two factions of BNP locked in an infighting and set fire to the private car of the lawmaker and burnt at least 15 motorcycles.

Later Md. Harun Ur Rashid, Personal Assistant [PA] of the lawmaker, filed a case accusing 14 leaders and activists of Khetlal upazila BNP on October 22.

Lawmaker Golam Mostafa claimed that the accused did not belong to BNP.

However, others including Sirajul Islam Bidyut, a leader of Khetlal BNP, said that the accused persons belonged to BNP.

He also claimed that the accused in the case were not involved in the incident.

## 22 acquitted of murder charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdul Hamid in a verdict yesterday acquitted 22 people in a killing case.

The acquitted persons were included Abdur Rashid, Abdullah, Abul Mansur, Abul Kashem of Kandiur area in Kendua municipality under Kendua upazila in the district.

According to the case in brief, on February 14 in 2002, Rafiqul Islam, 20, son of Rustom Ali, of same area was killed with sharp and lethal weapons due to previous grudge.

Later Rabeya Khatun mother of Rafiqul filed a killing case with Kendua police station accusing 22 people.

## FREQUENT DERAILMENTS, ROBBERIES

# Train journey in eastern zone becoming 'risky'

SHEIKH MD. SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Brahmanbaria

Train journey in the country's eastern zone is becoming 'hazardous' due to frequent derailments and robberies.

According to the railway sources in the district, within the last one year, at least nine trains derailed at various points of the eastern regions.

Every time a train derailed, movements of other trains were disrupted for hours, causing immense sufferings to the passengers.

A railway official said that frequent derailments have been occurring mainly due to lack of maintenance.

"The tracks and wheels have become mostly unfit. Sometimes drivers' lack of efficiency also causes such accident," the official told this correspondent.

The latest incident of derailment took place on November 14 at Kudda in the district disputing rail links from Dhaka to Chittagong, Sylhet, Noakhali and Chandpur.

On September 30 this year, a Chittagong-bound oil carrier derailed at Mandabag railway station in Brahmanbaria. The mishap immediately disrupted all rail communications for two hours in the region.

On June 06, 2013, six compartments of an intercity train skidded off the track in Kashba upazila of the district, snapping the rail links of four routes of Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet for three hours.

Besides derailments, incidents of robberies have also become a cause for concern.

Lately on January 31 this year, robbers took away valuables of three passengers

and killed them by pushing off a Dhaka-bound commuter train at Brahmanbaria-Phagachang section.

Robbers also killed five railway staff of different trains on the same route in the last 15 years, railway officials said.

Train attacks by unruly kids led to injury of a train driver in Brahmanbaria and death of a woman in Chittagong this year.

"I used to travel by train

regularly, but nowadays I try to avoid a train journey. Who knows when robbers would attack the passengers or the train get derailed. Life threat and time loss both are there," said Golap Mia, a regular passenger from Akhaura.

Abdul Motalib, station superintendent of Akhaura Railway Junction, said they were working to identify the 'actual' causes of frequent derailments and address



PHOTO: STAR

**A train derailed at Kudda in Akhaura of Brahmanbaria on November 14, disrupting rail links of four districts for hours with the capital city.**

# Land disputes leave 3 killed

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three people were killed over land disputes in Bandarban, Habiganj and Khulna districts in the last four days.

An elderly man was killed allegedly by his rival over a piece of disputed land in Shilerthua area under Lama upazila of Bandarban on Tuesday.

The deceased is Abul Kalam, 62, of Dardara Jiri area in the upazila, reports our correspondent.

Local and family sources said, a gang of 10/12 allegedly led by Shajahan of the area, attacked Kalam with lethal weapons, leaving him critically injured while he along with his son was returning home from a local market.

Kalam was rushed to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital where on duty doctors declared him dead.

Son of the deceased, Belal Hossain said Shajahan and his men recently

threatened to kill the family members over the land feud.

In Habiganj, a man was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups over a disputed land at Baniapara village in Madhabpur upazila on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Ali, 45, of the village, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

Police and locals said there was a longstanding conflict between Jubed Ali and Farid Mia over the land at the village.

As a sequel to the conflict, the men of the two rivals attacked each other with lethal weapons, leaving Mohammad Ali dead on the spot on Sunday night.

In another incident yesterday, two groups clashed over a piece of disputed land at Ikram village in Baniachang upazila, leaving 50 people injured.

Their rival groups were led by Rongu

Mia and Shamim Mia, following an altercation over the issue. Fifteen of the injured were hospitalised.

Away in Khulna, a farmer was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals over a piece of disputed land at Bamandanga village in Rupsa upazila on Monday morning.

The dead is Motaleb Morol, 50, son of late Edul Morol of the village, reports UNB.

Police said there was a longstanding feud between Motaleb and local UP member Abul Kashem over the land.

As a sequel to the feud, supporters of Abul Kashem, equipped with sharp weapons, attacked Motaleb at about 6:00am, leaving him seriously injured.

He was rushed to Khulna Medical College and Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead, said officer in-charge of Rupsa police station Robiul Islam.

# BOGRA VIOLENCE AFTER RUMOUR ON SAYEDEE Charges pressed against 336 Jamaat-Shibir, BNP men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Charges have been pressed against 336 Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men in two cases for vandalising, torching and looting government offices and AL men's houses in Nandigram and Dupchanchia upazilas of the district on March 3 this year.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Nandigram Police Station Shahjahan Ali, also the investigation (IO) of the case filed with the police station, submitted a charge sheet to the Senior Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Bogra, on Tuesday against 265 Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men.

Sub-Inspector Musa of Dupchanchia Police Station also submitted another charge sheet against 71 Jamaat-shibir men in the case for vandalism, arson

attack and looting.

As some Jamaat-Shibir men spread a rumour in Nandigram upazila that Sayedee's face was seen in the moon, thousands of Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men equipped with lethal weapons rushed to the upazila parishad area in the early hours of March 3.

They attacked the police station, vandalised and looted at least 16 government office and set upazila parishad chairman's house and two government vehicles afire.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Ahsanuzzaman of Nandigram Police Station filed a case the same day, accusing 325 named 10 to 15 thousand unnamed Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men.

After investigation, Officer-in-Charge Shahjahan Ali pressed

charges against 265 accused. Jamaat upazila unit Ameer Nurul Islam, General Secretary Monjurul Alam, and local BNP leader Fazle Rabbi Toha are among the accused.

On the same rumour in Dupchanchia upazila, Jamaat-Shibir men attacked the government offices and vandalised vehicles at the upazila headquarters on March 3.

Police filed a case with the police station the same day, accusing 71 Jamaat-Shibir men. After investigation, police pressed charges against the accused.

The charge sheeted accused include Upazila Jamaat Ameer Monsur Ali, General Secretary Motiur Rahman, Dupchanchia municipality unit Ameer Omar Ali, and ex-chairman of Talora Union Parishad Nazrul Islam.

## Housewife, college girl 'commit suicide'

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A housewife allegedly killed herself by self-immolation in Chuadanga district yesterday while a college girl allegedly committed suicide in Dinajpur on Tuesday.

A 27-year old housewife took her own life over a family feud at Notidanga village under Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga yesterday morning, reports our correspondent.

She was Bulbuli Khatun, mother of two children, and wife of Tanshen Ali at the village.

Quoting family members, Rifikul Islam, officer in-charge of Alamdanga police station, said Bulbuli, daughter of Bahar Ali of Hidarpur village in Chuadanga Sadar upazila, was married off with Tanshen Ali 10 years back.

Tanshen locked in an altercation with his wife yesterday morning over a trifling matter.

Later, at about 11.00am, Bulbuli poured petrol on her body and set herself on fire in absence of other members of the family.

Locals rushed to rescue her but she died on the spot.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Chuadanga General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

An unnatural [UD] case was filed with the Alamdanga police station.

In Dinajpur, a college girl allegedly committed suicide at a village in Nawabganj upazila on Tuesday, reports our correspondent.

The girl was identified as Aysha Khatun, 19, daughter of Md. Anwarul Islam of Purba Bhatipur village under the upazila. She was a degree student of Nawabganj Degree College.

According to the family member, the girl went to bed on Monday night.

As she was not opening her bedroom's door for a long time, the family members informed the police.

Later, police entered the room by breaking open the doors and found the girl hanging from the ceiling.

Police sent the body to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital for autopsy.

In Bogra, police recovered the body of an unidentified woman from a paddy field in Dawagir Darga area under Shibganj upazila on Tuesday evening, reports our correspondent.

Officer in-charge of Shibganj police station Fazlul Karim said, police recovered the body of the 25-year-old woman after locals informed them. The body was sent to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital's morgue for autopsy yesterday morning.

She might have been strangled after rape by criminals and later dumped at the paddy field, the OC

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### BCL leaders sued in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police lodged two separate cases under Arms Act against five Chhatra League (BCL) leaders in Pirganj upazila on Tuesday night. The BCL men were identified as Salman Siraj Rizu, joint secretary of Rangpur district unit BCL, Saiful Islam, Atikur Rahman, Jahangir Alam and Ullash, members of BCL Madankhali union unit of the upazila. Meanwhile, Ruhul Amin, elder brother of Phul Mian lodged a case with the same police station at night. Local sources said, on Monday, Salman, Saiful and their men went to Phul's grocery shop at Khoyerbari bazaar of the upazila and ordered Phul and his wife to leave the place at once. When Phul Mian refused to follow the order, they beat up the couple indiscriminately. At one stage, Saiful fired three bullets injuring the couple.

### 10 crude bombs seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Ten home-made bombs were seized in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat on Tuesday afternoon. BGB sources at Joypurhat-3 Battalion said that a BGB team, led by Major Saiful Haque, raided Masterpara village in the upazila at around 4.00pm on Tuesday and recovered 10 bombs in an abandoned condition. The bombs were handed over to Panchbibi police after filing a case.



PHOTO: STAR

**Police arrest a teacher of a coaching centre at Uttar Balubari area under Dinajpur municipality yesterday for allegedly leaking question paper of Primary School Certificate (PSC) examinations.**

### Traders protest attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Traders at Botia Bazaar under Naragati PS in Kalia upazila of the district yesterday observed a day-long shutdown, protesting attack on a rice trader in the Bazaar on Tuesday. Agitated traders pulled down shutters and brought out procession, demanding arrest of the culprit who injured rice trader Bhobo Das, 35, Tuesday morning. Abdul Motin Khan Pentul, president of Botdia Bonik Samity, said one Dola Mia, 40, of Mongolhata village went to Bhobo Das rice shop and wanted to take some rice on credit. As Bhobo refused, Dola Mia attacked him with sharp weapon and fled the scene. He demanded arrest of the culprit, otherwise, they would go for tougher agitation.

### Nine gamblers punished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Mobile courts in Pirganj upazila jailed nine gamblers on Tuesday night. Police said, acting on a tip-off, Rafiqul Haque, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Pirganj along with police raided a house at Panchgachhi village of the upazila on Tuesday night and arrested Obaidur Rahman Sultan, 40, son of Kalimuddin of the same village. Later a mobile court jailed him for 3 months. In another drive, Pirganj police arrested eight gamblers at Gurjipara village in the upazila. They are Mohsin Ali, 36, Amjad Hossain, 40, Bhubesh Chandra, 55, Shariful Islam, 32, Shariful Alam, 45, Rashedul Mian, 33, Dula Mian, 45, and Umar Faruk, 21. Later a mobile court jailed each of them for 3 days.

### 2 held by BSF returned

UNB, Sylhet

Two Bangladeshi men have returned home from India three days after their arrest by Indian Border Security Force (BSF). Indian immigration police handed over the two men to the Bangladesh authorities at Tamabil on Tuesday. The returnees are Raton Chandra Das, 31, son of Rashid Chandra Das of Khasiahati of Jaintiapur upazila, and Shukkur Ali, 18, son of Abdus Shahid of Gowainghat upazila. Tamabil immigration police confirmed the matter and said BSF troops arrested Raton on November 16 and Shukkur on November 17 on charge of their illegal entry into India and handed them over to Indian immigration