

# Dharla devours 100 bighas of cropland in Lalmonirhat

45 homesteads have also gone into the river in two days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Erosion by the River Dharla has taken an alarming turn in the last two days, devouring at least 45 homesteads and over 100 bighas of croplands at seven villages in Mogholhat and Kulaghat unions under Sadar upazila.

The affected villages are Badaitari, Kurul, Etapota and Majhitari in Mogholhat union, Shiberkuti, Char Kulaghat and Bongram in Kulaghat union.

The erosion-hit people have taken shelter on roads and highway, said local Water Development Board (WDB) sources.

A good number of homesteads, orchards and a vast tract of cropland in the area are also under threat of erosion, said Habibur Rahman, chairman of Mogholhat union parishad.

During a visit to the areas, this correspondent found many villagers leaving their homesteads for safer places in fear of further erosion.

A river protection earthen dam at Etapota village is also facing erosion threat,

said the chairman.

Meser Ali of Badaitari village in Mogholhat union said his homestead and one bigha of cropland went into the river on Sunday morning.

Dharla eroded my banana orchard on four bighas of land during the period, said Shamsu Miah of Shiberkuti village in Kulaghat union.

Contacted, Executive

Engineer of WDB in Kurigram Abu Taher said we wrote to the higher authorities for fund to thwart the erosion but no response yet to come.



PHOTO: STAR

Erosion by the Dharla River has taken a serious turn, devouring croplands and dwelling houses at Shiberkuti village in Kulaghat union under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

## PBCP's road blockade in Khagrachhari today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad (PBCP) will again enforced daylong road blocked in the district today demanding release of its district unit general secretary Masum Rana.

The leaders of the organisation have announced the blocked programme through a protest rally held in Shapla Chattar area of the district town yesterday.

The leaders alleged that police arrested Masum Rana on 'false' extortion charge. They threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme if their leader was not released immediately.

PBCP Khagrachhari unit President Sajal Islam Sajal, Senior Vice-President Taharul Islam, and its Mahalchhari unit General Secretary Jahirul Islam addressed the rally.

Later, the leaders and activists of PBCP brought out a procession in the district town and paraded the main streets.

Police arrested Masum Rana on June 12 on charge of illegal toll collection from Narikal Bagan area of the district town.

## Four of a family injured in BSF firing on Kurigram border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Four members of a family, including a child, sustained bullet injuries as Indian Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire on them on Khalisha Kotal frontier in Phulbari upazila on Sunday night.

The injured are Sheuli Rani Dash, 40, wife of Rintu Dash, 45, her daughter Srabanti Dash, 3, brothers Ajoy Chandra Dash, 20, and Debal Chandra Dash, 18, of the area.

They were admitted to the upazila health complex, said Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sources.

Habildar Shafiqul Islam, deputy commander of Balarhat border outpost under 45 BGB Battalion, said when 10 members of a Hindu family tried to go to India illegally a BSF patrol team of Bansh Kotal camp in Cooch Behar district of Pashchim Banga opened fire on them, leaving the four injured.

Hearing the sound of firing, BGB men rushed to the spot, rescued the injured and sent them to the health complex.

They also arrested six other members of the family on charge of trying to go to India illegally.

The arrestees are Pabitra Bala Dash, 65, wife of Thakur Dhan Dash, her son Rintu Dash, 45, Rintu's daughters Antara Dash, 12, Sharna Dash, 8, Falguni Dash, 5, and sister-in-law Dulan Dash, 14.

"We were going to Cooch Behar district in India to visit my daughter Jharna Dash, who has been living there for the last 15 years", said Pabitra Bala Dash.

A case was filed against five of the arrestees on charge of trying to cross the border illegally, said officer in-charge of Phulbari police station Md Bazlur Rashid.

## Municipality, RHD in dispute over road billboards

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Dispute between Lalmonirhat Municipality and the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) regarding responsibility of an important road passing through the town causes trouble for an ad firm that set up three billboards there.

Neptune Ad Firm set up the three billboards on Lalmonirhat-Burimari Highway at Mission Intersection in the town after taking permission from the municipality authorities a month ago.

But the RHD authorities in last week sent a letter to Neptune Ad

Firm, asking for removal of the billboards from the highway at their own cost, RHD official sources said.

Kazi Moin Uddin, general manager of Neptune Ad Firm, said, "We set up these billboards after getting permission from the municipality authorities and receiving all the relevant documents. But our firm is yet to start the business through display of ads due to interference from RHD staff. We submitted a letter to the RHD authorities concerned, seeking permission for using the billboards on the road last week."

Contacted, Lalmonirhat Municipality Mayor Reazul Islam Rintu, said, "I gave

permission to Neptune Ad Firm for using billboards on the road and informed the RHD officials of the matter. Municipality is the authority concerned regarding the matter but the RHD authorities challenged the municipality's permission and issued letter to the ad firm."

On the other hand, Lalmonirhat RHD Executive Engineer Suruj Miah said, "RHD is responsible for the road as it is a highway. The municipality mayor or the ad firm did not submit any letter to us before setting up these billboards on the highway. If the ad firm fails to respond to our letter, legal action will be taken by a month."

## SNIPPETS

### Arms peddler gets life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A court here yesterday sentenced an arms peddler to life imprisonment. The convict is Md Tayez Uddin, 40, son of Md Abdul Aziz of Islampur village in Sadar upazila. According to the prosecution, police arrested Tayez Uddin along with a revolver and some bullets at the village on August 8, 2003. A case was later filed with Sadar police station in this connection. After examining witnesses and evidence, Additional District Judge Munshi Md Moshir Rahman found Tayez Uddin guilty and pronounced the verdict.

### One held with yaba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested an alleged smuggler along with 29698 pieces of yaba tablets from Sadar union in Teknaf upazila early yesterday. The arrestee is Md Alam, 30, son of Md Sayed Hossain of Kaikkhalipara in the upazila. Commander of BGB-42 Battalion in Teknaf Md Nazmus Sadat Shyama said on secret information, a team raided the area and arrested Alam along with the yaba. When they were returning on the way a gang attacked them to set Alam free around 4:00am. Two BGB men were injured as they tried to resist them. A case was filed in this connection, said the commander.

### Lightning kills woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A woman was killed and her husband injured by lightning in Sailkupa upazila on Sunday evening. The deceased is Sathi Khatun, 22, wife of Shamsuddin Seikh of Dhalaharachandra village. Family sources said the couple were struck by lightning while they were working at their vegetable garden.

### Kid drowns in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A baby girl drowned in a pond at Charshuvi village in Daulatkhan upazila of the district on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Ripa, 2, daughter of Nagor Mia of the village. Police and locals said Ripa accidentally fell into the pond near their house while playing on its bank and drowned.

### Housewife killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband in Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday. The dead is Bibi Rahima, 26, wife of Kamal Uddin of Dhannapur village. She was mother of three children. Nijam Uddin, elder brother of the deceased, said Kamal married Rahima 8 to 9 years ago. For the last one year, Kamal developed a relationship with a girl of the area. On the fateful day, Kamal strangled Rahima following an altercation over the issue.

### Woman commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A housewife allegedly committed suicide in Lalmohan upazila of the district on Sunday. Deceased Shahida Begum, 25, daughter of Shafiullah Mia of Miarhat village, married day labourer Shahin, son of Shah Jalal of the same village, 7 years ago. Shahida took her life by hanging herself from the ceiling of her room following an altercation with Shahin, said police.

### Night guard beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A night guard of Sherpur upazila Truck and Covert-van owners' association office was beaten to death over missing of a cell phone at Central bus terminal in the upazila town early Sunday. The dead is Shah Ali, 50, son of late Sober Pramanik of Boroitoli of the area. Following a murder case filed by the deceased's son Anwar Ali, police arrested one Md Choimuddin Ahmed, 48, son of late Fazar Ali of the upazila, in the morning, said officer in-

## Arrest attackers of MMC student Taki in 24 hours

Teachers, BMA issue ultimatum to district administration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Expressing their solidarity with the agitating students of Mymensingh Medical College (MMC), teachers of the college and leaders of the local unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) yesterday issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the district administration to arrest the drug addicts who stabbed medical student Taki on Saturday.

Dr Motiur Rahman Bhuiyan, secretary of BMA local unit, said they would go for hunger strike if their

demand was not met.

Student of the college continued their indefinite strike for the third day yesterday demanding arrest of local drug addict Limon and his accomplices who stabbed Taki, a fourth year student of the college.

Teachers and teachers of MMC formed a human chain and brought out a rally on the campus yesterday noon to press the demand for immediate arrest of the attackers.

Taki, 21, who is now undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at

Dhaka Medical College Hospital, was stabbed indiscriminately on Saturday morning allegedly by some local drug addicts led by Limon as Taki told them not to take drug openly in the area.

Police arrested Limon's cousins Al Amin and Shafiqul Islam on Saturday night in connection with the incident. They were yesterday produced before a court that sent them to jail, said Abu Md Fazlul Karim, officer in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

## One killed, another hurt as robbers open fire on boat

The gang takes away Tk 3 lakh, 7 mobile sets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A man was shot dead and another sustained bullet injuries in an attack by a gang of robbers on a haor in Astagram upazila under the district on early yesterday.

The gang also looted cash worth over Tk 3 lakh and seven mobile phone sets and other valuables from them.

The deceased Abu Hossain, 45, son of Ansar Munsif of Polashbari upazila in Gaibandha, was a construction

worker at Astagram-Bajitpur road construction project.

Injured Saddam, 40, is undergoing treatment at Jahurul Islam Medical College and Hospital in Bajitpur.

Police said Abu along with ten other fellow workers were returning to Bajitpur by a boat from their workplace early yesterday when all on a sudden a gang of seven to eight robbers on another boat attacked and opened gun shots towards them, leaving Abu and Saddam bullet injured.

Later, the gang looted all their valuables and fled the scene with the booty.

Critically injured Abu and Saddam were rushed to Jahurul Islam Medical College and Hospital where Abu breathed his last around 11:00 am yesterday.

Chowdhury Mizanuzzaman, officer in charge of Astagram Police Station, said perhaps the attack was pre-planned as Abu, a deputy of the contractor, had a handsome amount of money in his possession.



PHOTO: STAR

Imran H Sarkar, spokesperson of Gonojagoron Mancha, distributes leaflets among people in Manikganj bus stand area yesterday as part of an awareness campaign in favour of the trial of war criminals and banning the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami on charge of involvement in crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.



PHOTO: STAR

Police seize huge quantity of fruits treated with formalin at Mawa in Munshiganj district yesterday, the day after the opening of a 'formalin check post' at the important ferry terminal.

**Robi**  
**SIMPLE INTERNET**

Experience 3.5G Carefree

**2G or 3.5G**  
One Plan  
One Rate

Pack Starts at only Tk. 2

### Robi Simple Internet Plan

Internet pack	Value (exc. VAT)	Validity	Availability	USSD Code
4 MB	Tk.2	24 Hours	24 Hours	*8444*4#
25 MB	Tk.10	24 Hours	24 Hours	*8444*21#
100 MB	Tk.40	7 Days	24 Hours	*8444*100#
500 MB	Tk.175	30 Days	24 Hours	*8444*500#
1 GB	Tk.275	30 Days	24 Hours	*8444*85#
2 GB	1 GB 1 GB	Tk.347	30 Days	24 Hours From 1am-6am

### All packs will automatically migrate

• 2G and 3.5G can be used immediately upon activation • Packs are available to both prepaid and postpaid subscribers • To check internet balance, dial \*8444\*88# • You can purchase the pack again before your current data runs out

To know other offers for you, dial \*999#

Visit: f/RobiFanz or www.robicom.bd

