



Haripur flood shelter in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha, right, a government primary school in Lohagara upazila of Narail face the onslaught of the Teesta and Madhumoti as erosion by the rivers has taken a serious turn in the areas.



PHOTO: STAR

EROSION BY TEESTA, MODHUMOTI RIVERS

Flood shelter, school in Narail, Gaibandha under threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Haripur flood shelter at Ujan Tewra point in Sundarganj upazila is now under serious threat of erosion by the River Teesta as a portion of the shelter has already gone into the river, affecting some families.

In 2005, Practical Action Bangladesh donor agency and local NGO Akota built the shelter on five bighas of land with the capacity of

accommodating 150 families of flood-hit victims. It has 17 large scale rooms.

For the last few days, local people tried to stop the erosion by erecting bamboo spars but failed, threatening the flood shelter centre, said Bidhut Kumar Dev Sarma, a member of Haripur Union Parishad.

If permanent measures are not taken immediately to thwart the erosion, the shelter centre may go into the river anytime, said Mozherul Islam, chairman

of the union parishad.

Lutfar Rahman, executive director of Akota, said he already wrote to the donor agency for fund to check the erosion.

We informed the higher authorities about the matter, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abu Rafa Md Arif.

Away in Narail, a government primary school in Lohagra upazila of the district is now under threat of erosion by the River Modhumoti, reports our correspondent.

The building of T-Korgati Government Primary School may go into the river anytime if necessary measures are not taken immediately to stop the onslaught, said Headmaster Md Asaduzaman Mollah.

The mighty Modhumoti already devoured the toilet, tube-well and playground of the school, much to the worry of 400 kids, he said.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities are yet to take any steps to control the

erosion, said the headmaster.

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

Contacted, Amito Kumar Das, deputy divisional engineer of local Water Development Board (WDB), said he wrote to the higher authorities for fund to stop the erosion but no response yet to come.

Road occupied, hindering movement of 40 families

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Forty families at Purbo Harinchara village of Domar upazila under the district have remained virtually confined to their houses for about two weeks as members of an influential family recently occupied a road by building houses and putting fences there.

A good number of people of the village use the one-kilometre-long and 10-feet-wide earthen road passing through the village connecting Bottali Haat and a ghat of Dewnai River to go to local markets, hospitals, educational institutions, upazila and district headquarters, locals said.

But dispute arose recently between the families of Abu Hashem and Ohidul Islam over boundary of two plots of lands at south and north edge of the road as both sides claimed that part of the road as belonging to them.

Sporadic clashes occurred between the two groups and even a shop was damaged at nearby Bottali bazaar owned by a group.

On 15 June, Ohidul Islam's men living at north side of the road built houses, planted trees and put bamboo fences in the middle of the road, claiming the portion to be owned by them.



PHOTO: STAR

Forty families at Purbo Harinchara village in Domar upazila of Nilphamari have remained virtually confined to their houses for about two weeks as members of an influential family have occupied a road in the village by putting up fences.

It made the road too narrow and unusable for movement of people, let alone vehicles.

"I could not take my ailing sister to the upazila hospital by ambulance on Wednesday, as the vehicle could not pass the too narrow road," Abdul Latif, one of the people who have fallen victim to the situation, told this correspondent during his visit to the area on Thursday.

The affected people cannot take their newly harvested boro paddy and other agricultural products

to local markets due to occupation of the road, said several others including Abdul Aziz, Dabibur and Enamul Huq.

Following complaint from the victims, Sub Inspector of Domar Police Station Safiqul Alam visited the spot and found the old road now occupied with houses and newly planted trees.

Defying request from Domar Police Station Officer in Charge Kafiluddin, the group has continued the occupation.

Chairman of Horinchara

union parishad Azizur said, "I have requested district land department to send a government surveyor to demarcate the actual area and location of the road. Once it is done, we will implement the decision at any cost to maintain peace in the area.

Contacted, Domar upazila parishad Chairman Abdur Razzak Basunia said, "It is illegal to create obstacle to people's free movement. The upazila administration will do everything to ensure rights of the affected people."

Lightning kills 6 in five dists

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Six people were killed by lightning in Manikganj, Narail Satkhira, Bogra and Gopalganj districts yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Manikganj, a college student was killed by lightning at Abudanga village under Daulatpur upazila in the afternoon.

The victim, Manik Mia, 22, was a first year student of Daulatpur Motilal Degree College.

Son of Ahmed Ali of the village, Manik was struck by lightning while he was returning home from a farmland at around 1:00pm. He was taken to

Daulatpur Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead.

In Narail, lightning killed two people at Gobra village under Sadar upazila at around 4:30pm.

The deceased were identified as Jony Biswas, 23, son of Murad Biswas and Alamgir Mollah, 22, son of Berek Mollah of the village.

Family and local people said Jony and Berek were struck by lightning while returning home from paddy field and died instantly.

In Satkhira Sadar upazila, a farmer was killed and his father injured as they were struck by lightning at Khejurdangi village in the morning.

The deceased was identified as Mamun Hossain, 38, Witnesses said Mamun and his father Abdul Majid, 63, were hit by lightning while working in their crop field. Mamun died on the spot and his father sustained serious injuries.

Locals took Mamun's father Majid to a local clinic.

Lightning killed a boy and injured another at Hiranja village in Dupchanchia upazila of Bogra district early yesterday.

The dead is Raju Ahmed, 16, son of Abdus Sobhan. The injured, Lutfar Rahman, 32, son of late Jamir Uddin of the village, is undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Police quoted family sources as saying that both of them went for fishing in a canal during heavy rain. They were struck by lightning and killed on the spot.

In Gopalganj, a farmer was struck by lightning and killed at Pona village in Kashiani upazila in the afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Taher Mridah, 35, son of Badsha Mridah of the village.

Officer-in-Charge of Monirul Islam of Kashiani Police Station quoted family members as sating that Taher was struck by lighting on the premises of their house at around 5:00pm and died instantly.

Husband, wife 'commit suicide' in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

The bodies of a couple were found hanging from the ceiling of their bedroom in Singra upazila of the district yesterday morning.

The deceased are Ashraful Islam, 30, and his wife Madina Begum, 23, of Akhpara Serkul village in the upazila.

Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Singra Police Station, said the couple's seven-year-old son Abdul Motin went to sleep with his grandfather last night.

In the morning, Motin knocked at the door of his parents' bedroom, but

nobody responded from inside.

Neighbours entered the room by breaking open the door and found the bodies of Ashraful and his wife Madina hanging from the ceiling of their room.

Being informed by the villagers, police went to the spot at around 9:30am, recovered the bodies and sent them to Natore Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Ashraful, an expatriate in Oman, came home two months ago and was taking preparation to go back to his workplace, police said.

When Ashraful was in

Oman his family members put pressure on Madina to give them money, claimed Mazibar Rahman, father of Madina.

He suspected their involvement in the killing of the two. Refuting the allegation, Ashraful's brothera Rashedul said his brother and sister-in-law committed suicide. "They left a written note, stating that no body is responsible for their death," he said.

An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Singra Police Station.

Contacted, the officer-in-charge of Singra Police Station said they are waiting for autopsy report.

SNIPPETS

Man electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulibazar

A man was electrocuted at a field at Bhombomi village in Dakkhin Sunamganj upazila of Sunamganj district yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Abul Kalam, 38, son of late Siddique Ali of Sadhukhali village in the upazila. Police and locals said Kalam came in contact with a live electric wire of transmitter lying in the field while working there. He died on the spot.

17 shops gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

At least 17 shops were gutted in a fire in Mathbaria municipality area of the district early yesterday. The fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop around 3:00am and soon engulfed the adjoining shops. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after two hours of frantic efforts, said Mathbaria Fire Station Officer Abdul Karim. The affected shop owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 1.5 crore.

'Missing' driver found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A 'missing' battery-run auto-rickshaw driver was found murdered in the district yesterday noon. The dead is Mohammad Adil, 27, son of Robi Miah of Dakkhin College Para in the town. Family sources said Adil went out of home with his vehicle on Saturday morning and remained missing. Locals found his body in Kazipur area of the town and informed the police who sent it to Tangail Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Police suspected that the muggers killed Adil to take away his vehicle.

3 held with arms

UNB, Chuadanga

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested three men along with three Indian pistols at Darshana Check Post in the district on Saturday evening. The arrested are Shahinur Rahman, 35, son of Abdul Wadud of Kamlapur village, Tofael Ahmad, 35, son of Tofazzal Hossain of Arpara village and Khairuzzaman, 32, son of Yunus Biswas of Thanapara village of Sadar upazila in Kushtia district. BGB sources said a team arrested the trio at the check post in the evening while they were returning from India through Gede border. The arrestees were later handed over to Damurhuda Police Station, said Lt Col S M Maniruzzaman, director of Chuadanga BGB-6.

Housewife murdered

UNB, Magura

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry at Sabek Khator village in Shalikhra upazila on Saturday. The deceased is Popy Khatun, 19, wife of Akash Ali of the same village. Shalikhra Police Station OC Biplob Kumar Nath said Akash used to torture Popy for dowry since their marriage. Popy also filed a case with a court in this connection. Family members claimed Akash called his wife out of her father's house at Sabek Khator village in the early hours. Later, on Saturday noon, locals found her body in a field of the village and informed police who sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Akash went into hiding after the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

This road in Borogola area of Bogra town has been submerged following a downpour yesterday, causing trouble to commuters.