



Saline water from Ramnabad River enters the villages and agricultural land through the breached portion of the flood control embankment in Lalua union under Kalapa upazila of Patuakhali.

Dyke collapse floods five villages in Patuakhali

Hundreds rendered homeless, croplands hit by saline water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A flood control embankment in Charipara area under Kalapara upazila of the district collapsed in the last two days, inundating at least 300 dwelling houses and over 2000 acres of agricultural land.

Locals said at least a 300 feet area of the dyke collapsed due to high tide under the impact of full moon. Aman cultivation on over 2000 acres of land at Lebukhali, Mollakhali, Algee, Pangashia and Moricherkhali villages have become uncertain as saline water is entering

the agricultural land through the breached portion.

Tidal surge from nearby Ramnabad River hits the Charipara area every year, especially during full moon and new moon, said Anis Howlader of the area.

The affected people of the villages have taken shelter on the embankment and at safer places, said Hasmon Ali Howlader.

While visiting the area yesterday, this correspondent found housewife Farida Begum cooking food by setting up an earthen oven on the dyke.

"I am cooking food for my family members as floods

engulfed our house in Charipara area," she said.

Mir Tariquzzaman Tara, chairman of Lalua Union Parishad (UP) said over 20,000 people of five unions of Kalapara upazila are badly affected by tidal surge and erosion by the Ramnabad River.

Charipara village, Government Primary School and its adjacent cyclone shelter and mosque are also under the threat of onslaught by the river, he added.

On the other hand, a fresh area of the protection dyke of Lebukhali ferry terminal on Patuakhali-Barisal highway collapsed a

week ago due to tidal surge.

Patuakhali Water Development Board (WDB) and RHD sources said, concrete blocks on the southern side of the terminal have gone into the Payra River.

Md Jahirul Islam, executive engineer for Patuakhali RHD, said the entire ferry terminal is under the verge of collapse concrete blocks of the protection dyke are collapsing into the river. "We have informed the authorities concerned of the matter and urged them to take immediate steps to save the protection dyke," the engineer said.



A flood victim, who has taken shelter on the embankment, is cooking food on an earthen oven in Chairapara area of Kalapara upazila, right, Labukhali ferry terminal is on the verge of collapse as the terminal protection dyke is being eroded due to high tide of the Payra River in Dumki upazila of Patuakhali district.



PHOTO: STAR

Man accused of killing son kills himself

UNB, Sylhet

A man, who was accused of killing his son by strangulating, allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree at Angura village in Bianibazar upazila on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Kutil Mia, 30, a resident of the village.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer in-charge of Bianibazar police station, said police released Kutil Mia considering his as an insane after his arrest in the case for killing his son.

On Monday night, Kutil strangled his eight-year-old son Zakir following an altercation with his wife for permission to marry for the second time.

After the killing, he dumped the body into the Kushiara River and police recovered it on Wednesday, two days after the incident.

Locals caught Kutil and handed him over to police.

Accused in case for court vandalism held in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested president of district unit Swchchhasebok Dal Mehedi Hasan Himu in Station Road area in the town on Friday night in a case filed for court vandalism in 2013.

The arrestee is also the ward-1 councillor of Bogra municipality and a close aide to the BNP district unit president, sources said.

Earlier, a Chhatra League leader on Dec 13, 2012 sued 44 leaders and activities of J ub o D a l and Swchchhasebok Dal leaders with Sadar PS under the explosives act.

The accused sought bail in the court of chief Additional Judicial Magistrate Abdul Hamid on Feb 14, 2013 and the court rejected their bail prayers.

At this they vandalised the court, damaged furniture and torn papers.

The next day, Court Sub-inspector (CSI) Ataur Rahman then filed a case with the court of Abdul Hamid on charge of vandalism of the court against 140 J u b o D a l and Swchchhasebok Dal men.

Boy abducted for ransom found dead in Bogra

No trace yet of kidnapped schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The body of a three-year-old boy, abducted for ransom from Koshaigari village in Adamdighi upazila of the district on July 3, was found in a pond at the village yesterday.

The boy was identified as Mushfique, son of Bipul Pramanik of the village.

An unknown gang picked up the boy from in front of their house and then demanded Tk 7 lakh as ransom from his father Bipul Pramanik who filed a general diary with Adamdighi Police Station the same day.

Locals found Mushfique's body in the morning and informed the police.

Meanwhile, a schoolgirl, who was abducted from Belail area in the town on May 11, still remains untraced.

At a press conference held at the local press club on Thursday, victim's father urged the district administration to take immediate measures to rescue his daughter.

A youth named Mostafiz and his four accomplices waylaid the girl, a class seven student of Yakubia Girls' High School in the town, in front of Nirala Filling Station while she was going to the school along with her mother in a rickshaw.

They forcibly picked up the girl in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and left the scene. Immediately after the incident, her mother filed an abduction case with Sadar Police station, accusing four identified and three unnamed people.

Police arrested three of the accused, but the main accused, Mostafiz, and the girl have remained untraced for two months.

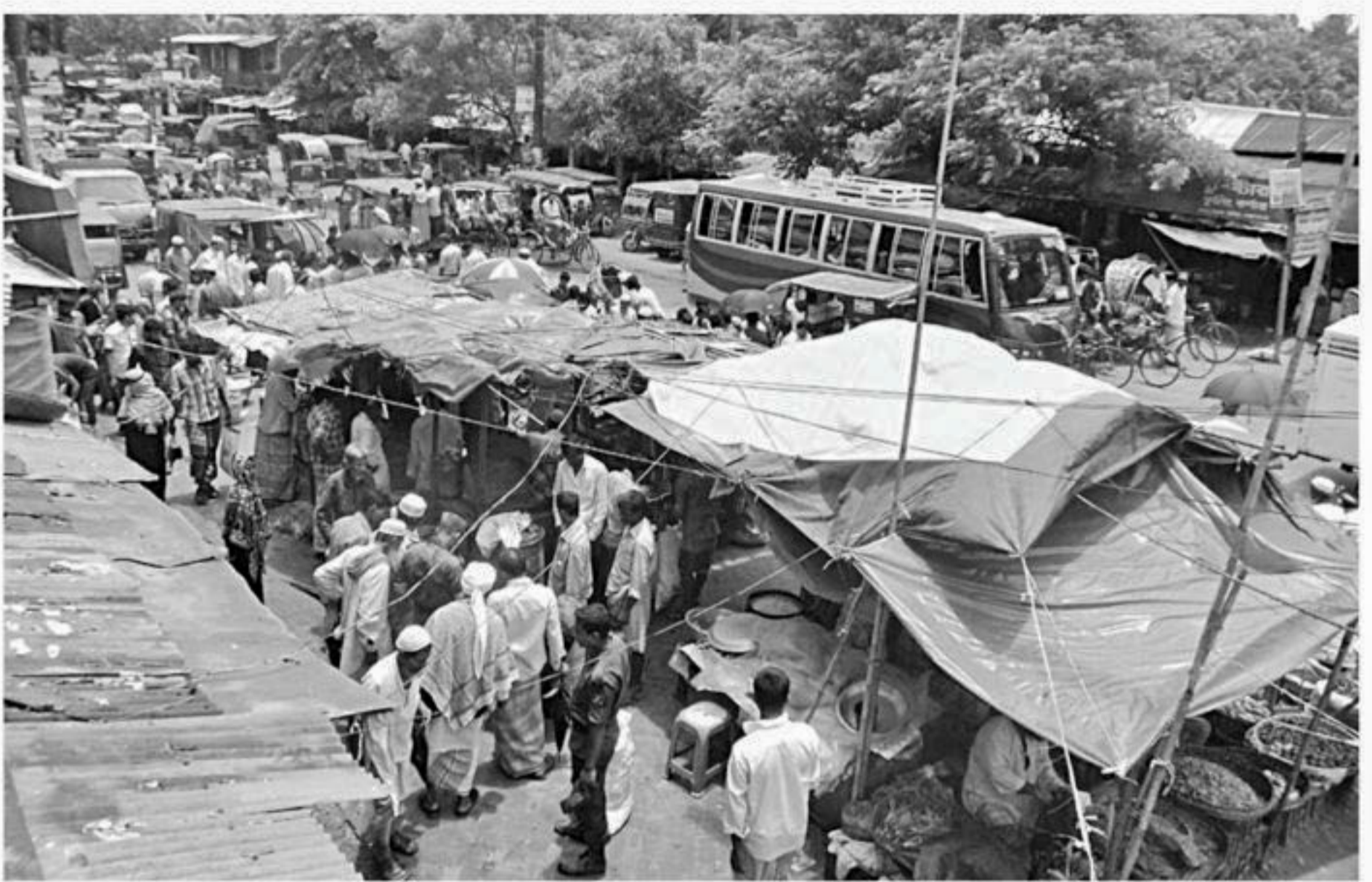


PHOTO: STAR

Illegal weekly makeshift markets at at least 12 points of Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway are allegedly causing frequent road accidents and traffic jam. The photo was taken from Ukhia Sadar Station Road last week.

Unable to bear shame, rape victim takes own life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A minor girl, who suffered public humiliation after being raped, allegedly committed suicide at Uttar Mandalpara village in Sadar upazila on Friday.

The dead is Rashida Akhter, 11, daughter of Rafiqul Islam of Gagla village under Rajarhat upazila in Kurigram district.

She was living at her grandfather's house at Uttar Mandalpara village as her parents were staying in Dhaka for the sake of jobs.

On Thursday night, Rashida was alone in the house as the family members went to one of their relatives' house at the neighbouring village.

Taking the advantage, one Firoz Miah alias Babu, 19, of the same village, entered the house and raped her. Hearing the hue and cry, locals rushed to the spot and

rescued the girl. However, Firoz managed to flee the scene.

After the incident, some relatives and locals blamed also the minor girl.

The following morning, unable to bear the shame anymore, Rashida took her life by hanging herself from the ceiling of her room.

The body was sent to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Mansur Ali, officer in-charge of Sadar police station.

Victim's grandfather Nasiut Ullah filed a case, accusing Firoz Miah, his father Hafez Uddin alias Hotla, 57, and mother Firoza Begum, 45, in this connection.

The accused went into hiding after the incident and police were raiding different areas to arrest them, the OC told this correspondent.

SNIPPETS

20 hurt in AL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League in Mollahpara area of Magura district town on Friday. Police fired 59 tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between Magura district unit Awami Krishak League Sheikh Shamim and Magura district Sramik League general secretary Sheikh Shamim. The clash took place on Friday morning when a gang attacked Sheikh Tushar, 25, younger brother of Sheikh Shamim with sharp weapons, leaving him injured in the town, said police. Additional police have been deployed in the area to avert further trouble.

Girl raped in Feni

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A teenage girl was raped allegedly by a local youth in Sadar upazila of the district on Friday evening. M Azharul Haque, a local UP chairman, said one Akther Hossain alias Tipu, 26, raped the girl when she was alone at her house in Dharmapur Asrayan project area of the upazila. Hearing screaming, locals rushed to the spot, rescued the girl and sent her to Feni Sadar Hospital for medical test. However, Tipu managed to flee the scene. A case was filed in this connection, said Mahub Morshed, officer in-charge of Feni Model police station.

Robber ringleader held

UNB, Faridpur

Police arrested the ringleader of a robber gang from the Station Road area in Sadar upazila on Friday morning. The arrestee is Enayet, 43, of Harunakandi village in Sadar upazila. Sunil Karmakar, officer in-charge of the Detective Branch (DB) of police, said on secret information, a team conducted a drive in the area and arrested Enayet. Police suspected that Enayet had involvement in the killing of auto-rickshaw driver Zakir Hossain on June 29. Police said in 2012, Enayet was released from jail after serving several terms of imprisonment in 10 robbery cases.

LAND DISPUTES

Fratricide, man killed by wife, son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A man was beaten to death allegedly by his younger brother following a dispute over the boundary line of a piece of land yesterday at Sarkerpara village in Sundarganj upazila.

Locals said, diseased Mohammed Ali, 75, had a longstanding conflict with step brother Lal Mia, 34.

Yesterday noon, the quarrel took a serious turn after an altercation and at one stage Lal Mia hit Mohammed Ali with a stick, causing his death on the spot.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and arrested Lal Mia and his son Mahabubur Rahman.

TANGAIL

In Tangail, an old man was

beaten to death allegedly by his wife and son over a land-related dispute at Habibpur village in Gopalpur upazila on Thursday evening.

The deceased was identified as Julhash Uddin, 65, a teacher of a local madrasa at the village, reports UNB.

Police said, an altercation ensued between Julhash and his wife Monwara and son Khokon over a land-related dispute on Thursday evening.

At one stage, Khokon and Monwara beat up Julhash mercilessly, leaving him critically injured.

Later he died on the way to hospital.

Police could not arrest anyone as Monwara and his two sons went into hiding after the incident.

Two Jamaat men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested two Jamaat men at Chok Shukhangari village under Dupchanchia upazila on Friday.

The arrestees are Ayub ali, 38, and Yakub Ali, 36, sons of Dowlot Hossain Dhukha of Chok Shukhangari village. The two siblings are members of Dupchanchia upazila unit of Jamaat.

They were arrested on charges of vandalising and torching police residences

and business centres of Awami League men in the area on March 3 last year after a rumour was circulated over seeing the image of Delwar Hossain Sayeede in moon.

Following the incident, police and local AL leaders filed 15 cases, accusing over 50,000 Jamaat-Shibir men of the upazila.

The arrestees are accused in 13 cases, said officer in-charge of Dupchanchia police station Riaz Ahmed.

Erosion by Teesta, Dharla rivers renders 200 families homeless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 200 families at 13 villages of five upazilas in the district have been rendered homeless in the last five days due to serious erosion by the rivers Teesta and Dharla.

A large number of victims took shelter on the government roads, high lands in the villages.

The erosion-hit areas are Bumka, Shiberkuti, Etapota, Pangatari, Kalmati villages of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, Kutirpar, Balapara villages of Aditmari upazila, Bhotmari, Jamirbari villages of Kaliganj upazila, Sinduma, Gaddimari villages of Hatibandha upazila and Mahimpara, Dahagram of Patgram upazila in the district.

People hit by Dharla erosion at Bumka village of Sadar upazila told this correspondent yesterday that the river took a devastating turn in the last five days, devouring homesteads, orchards and croplands.

Erosion victim Manowar Hossain of Etapota village in Sadar upazila, said his six-member family took shelter on the government road after the river eroded his house and land.

Asgor Ali, another homeless victim at Mahimpara village in Patgram upazila, said he lost his homestead

to Teesta River erosion besides four bighas of croplands in the last five days."

Kulaghat union parishad (UP) chairman in Sadar upazila Idris Ali said, he had already contacted the Water Development Board (WDB) official seeking necessary steps to check the river erosion in his union but yet to get any response.

Dahagram-Angarpota

union parishad (UP) chairman at Patgram upazila Habibur Rahman said, erosion by the Teesta turned serious in his union but the WDB was yet to take any step.

"Many homesteads, croplands, orchards would go into the river in the next one month if no step was taken soon," he said.

Executive Engineer of Lalmonirhat WDB

Sahajhahan Talukdertold this correspondent that erosion by the rivers turned serious at 13 villages. The rivers have already rendered at least 200 families homeless in the last five days, he said.

"There is no fund in my office at the moment to take any steps to check the erosion at these villages," he said, adding he already wrote to the authorities concern seeking fund and



PHOTO: STAR

Erosion by Dharla river in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila devouring a road in Kulaghat village.