

VILLAGERS BUILD 300-METRE-LONG DYKE



PHOTO: STAR

Locals render voluntary service to build a 300-metre-dyke to save their homesteads, croplands and orchards from erosion by the Teesta River at Dhubni village in Hatibandha upazila under Lalmonirhat district, after failing to get help from the Water Development Board. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

Jamuna devours dyke threatening villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The River Jamuna may devour several villages any time in Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj as 50 metres of the flood protection embankment of the river collapsed yesterday.

Md Shafiqul Islam, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) in Kazipur, said the dyke collapsed as erosion by the river took a serious turn in the last few days due to onrush

of rain water.

Kazipur Sadar Union Parishad Chairman Md Kamruzzaman Biplob blamed use of low quality materials by the Water Development Board (WDB) for collapse of the dyke.

"It is only an eye wash and nothing else, as just a few workers are seen working to repair the dyke. The efforts are not enough to control such a turbulent situation", added the UP

chairman.

Refuting the allegation, Executive Engineer Babul Chandra Sheel of Sirajganj WDB said that they already had started working to check the erosion through dumping sandbags at the 'Meghali' point.

About two weeks ago, a portion of a road alongside the river was devoured by the mighty Jamuna at the same spot.



PHOTO: STAR

Around 50-metre area of the flood protection embankment on the Jamuna in Kazipur upazila under Sirajganj district collapsed yesterday as erosion by the rain-fed river took a serious turn, threatening several villages in the area.

Three housewives killed in separate incidents

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three housewives have been killed in Bandarban, Panchagarh and Moulvibazar districts.

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking Harpic, a toilet cleaner, in Bandarban early Tuesday, reports our correspondent.

The deceased is Fatema Akter, 40, wife of Shafiqul Islam, a Sub Assistant Engineer of LGED in Jori upazila in Habiganj.

Shafiqul was recently transferred to Jori from Bandarban.

Younger brother of the deceased Belal Hossen alias Shuvu said "Fatema called me at 12.30 am and urged all the family members to forgive her if she committed any mistake". He also claimed that her sister was suffering from mental depression for long.

Fatema's neighbors said, the woman was very unhappy as her husband had illicit relations with some other women. She attempted to commit sui-

cide several times earlier, they said.

Quoting Fatema's daughter Sumaiya Akter, police said her mother took poison around 12:30pm as she could not tolerate it anymore.

Police recovered the body of a housewife from a pond at Khariza Katanhari village in Debiganj upazila of Panchagarh on Sunday, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

The deceased is Saheda Begum, 32, wife of Mokbul Hossain of the village.

Md Kaisar Ali, officer in-charge of Debiganj Police Station, said locals spotted Saheda's body floating in a pond adjacent to her house and informed police.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

The reason behind the death would be clear after getting the post-mortem report, added the OC.

In Moulvibazar, a housewife was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband

over a family feud in Lakhai upazila of Habiganj on Saturday night, reports our correspondent.

The deceased Mafia Akhter, 25, was wife of Shah Mohammad of Purbo Bullah village in the upazila and a mother of two.

Dorga Ali, father of the deceased, said Shah Mohammad used to torture his daughter often over trivial matters, since their marriage about eight years ago.

On Saturday evening, Shah Mohammad stabbed Mafia brutally and left her unconscious in a pool of blood.

Hearing the news after quite sometime, Mafia's family members took her to Habiganj Sadar Hospital, where the doctors declared her dead around 11:30pm.

Ali Farid Ahmed, officer in-charge of Lakhai Police Station, said the body bore several stab injuries. Police launched drives to arrest the culprit, added the OC.

Fatema's neighbors said, the woman was very unhappy as her husband had illicit relations with some other women. She attempted to commit sui-

Night guard killed, three bikes looted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Robbers strangled a night guard and looted three motorcycles from a house at Munshipara in the city early Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Adam Ali, 75, of Keranipara area.

Police and local people said, breaking open the main gate, a gang of robbers entered the house of businessman Nasirul Islam Siju at about 4:00am.

The robbers tied up the hands and legs of Adam Ali with ropes, strangled him and took away the bikes.

On information, Humayun Kabir, Assistant Superintendent of Police, visited the spot.

The owner of the house lodged a case in this connection.

In another incident, robbers looted a motorcycle from the house of Altaf Hossain, officer in charge of Dinajpur Kotwali Police Station and former OC of Rangpur Kotwali Police Station at Khamarpura in the city early in the morning.

Abdur Razzaq, Superintendent of Police (SP), said they were investigating the incidents.

Missing man's body found in boat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered the body of a youth from a boat along Roknupur border in Gomostapur upazila on Sunday, two days after he had gone missing.

The deceased is Mohammad Asadul Islam, 25, son of Entaj Ali of Joshoil village of the upazila.

Lt Col Mujib-ul-Haque, commanding officer (CO) of BGB 43 Battalion, said being tipped-off, a BGB team challenged two unidentified men boarding a small boat in Roknupur Beel (water body) around 9:30am.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the duo jumped into the water and fled the scene, leaving the boat behind. Later, the BGB men recovered the body from the boat.

The CO quoted Rabiul, brother of deceased, as saying that Asadul, a farmer by profession, remained missing since Friday.

Firoz Ahmed, officer in-charge of Gomostapur Police Station, said the body bore several stab injuries. Police launched drives to arrest the culprit, added the OC.

DIMLA UPAZILA OF NILPHAMARI

Under construction bldg for ICT training develops cracks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Under construction building of 'Upazila ICT Training and Resource Centre for Education (UTRCE)' in Dimla upazila under the district developed serious cracks, prompting the upazila nirbahi officer to direct the official of the construction firm concerned to strictly follow project schedule.

Two storied UTRCEs, with 205-square metre area on each floor, are being constructed in 128 upazilas across the country, with financial support of Korea Exim Bank and the Government of Bangladesh, and BANBEIS, Ministry of Education, is implementing the \$27 million project.

The work for UTRCE building in Dimla upazila started in June last year. Scheduled to be handed over by May 31 this year, it is yet to be complete.

Visiting the site on Sunday, this correspondent saw 7-8 workers doing plaster on walls and sanitary fitting works but no official of the contractors concerned was present there.

Two one to two inches

wide cracks, each 7-8 feet long and about 18 inches apart, developed at lower part of the ground floor's south wall attached to the foundation as soil subsided in heavy rain.

Local trader Russel Hossain said cracks developed as the foundation soil was not compressed prop-

erly and low quality materials were used for the wall, in absence of proper monitoring.

Dimla upazila education officer Ahsan Habib said, "It is a matter of worry that cracks developed in the UTRCE building. No official of the contractor met me to brief about work's develop-

ment since I joined here around five months ago although I am the authority to receive the building after its completion."

Md Shafiullah, site engineer of a construction firm claimed that the building work was done as per project design and planning.

PHOTO: STAR
The under construction building of Dimla upazila ICT Training and Resource Centre in Nilphamari district developed cracks allegedly due to faulty construction work.

SNIPPETS

Boy's body found in river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The body of a five-year-old boy was found floating on Karatoa River near Uttar Shahpara village in Sherpur upazila on Wednesday, five hours after he went missing. The deceased is Jubayer Hossain, son of Masud Sheikh of the village. Police quoted the deceased family members as saying that Jubayer along with some other children of the same age were playing on the bank of the river around 3:00pm and went missing. Later, around 8:00pm, locals spotted his floating body in the river and informed his family members and police. Contacted, Rakib Hossain, Sub-inspector of Sherpur Police Station, said Jubayer's body was handed over to his family members without conducting the autopsy as it seemed that the boy might have been drowned.

Housewife gang-raped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A housewife was raped by a gang of criminals in front of her husband at Satiyangan Baburhaat village in Khansama upazila early Saturday. Police and locals said the husband of the victim runs a sweetmeat shop near their house in the area. After closing the shop, the couple went to bed on Friday night. A gang, allegedly led by Abdul Jabbar, an assistant teacher of a local high school, equipped with sharp weapons swooped on their house at 3:30am and tied up the husband. They later raped the 30-year-old woman in front of her hapless husband and fled the scene. Police are raiding different areas to arrest the culprits, said Md Mokhlesur Rahman, officer in-charge (acting) of Khansama police station. A case was filed in connection with the incident, he said.

Councillor assaults engr

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A deputy assistant engineer (DAE) of Cox's Bazar Municipality was allegedly assaulted by a councillor of the municipality at the old municipality building yesterday. Rafiqual Islam, councillor of Ward no-11, at one stage, attacked Manotosh Chakma and beat him up severely. Hearing Manotosh's cry for help, the other staffs of the municipality rushed to the spot and rescued him with several injury marks in his body. Rafiqual, however, refuted the allegation and claimed that he had a hot exchange when they were talking the issues of different development projects.

Man gets life for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Sunamganj court yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his wife in 2002.

The convict, Abdul Aziz, 35, was also fined Tk 25,000, in default, to suffer six months more rigorous imprisonment (RI).

According to the prosecution, Aziz, a labourer by profession, married Subtara Bagum, 25, daughter of Jasim

Uddin of Jaganathpur village in Jaganathpur upazila in 2001. Aziz hails from Singhergaon village under Kendua Upazila of Netrakona district. But he stayed at his wife's house at Jaganathpur.

The couple used to lock in quarrel on trifling matters since their marriage.

On 17th June, 2002, Aziz beat up his wife when she was pregnant.

Seriously injured Subtara died on the way of Sylhet Osmani Medical College.

PHOTO: STAR
As Bhola municipality lacks proper drainage system, most roads in the town get submerged after a moderate rain yesterday. Photo shows an inundated road in front of K Jahan Market.