

Dharla devours 100 bighas of farmland in 2 weeks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Erosion by the River Dharla has taken a serious turn in the six villages of Sadar upazila, devouring more than 100 bighas of cropland in the last 14 days.

The villages are Bumka, Nagartari, Kurul, Etapota, Kurul and Badaitari of the bordering Mogholhat union, said local Water Development Board (WDB) sources.

More agricultural lands might go into the river anytime if the authorities did not take immediate measures to check the erosion, said locals.

Delwar Hossain, 48, a farmer of Bumka village, said the river eroded aman paddy on my two bighas of land last week.

"The banana orchard on my one bigha of land was washed away by the river," said Amzad Hossain, another farmer of Etapota village.

Sources at Lalmonirhat Sadar Agriculture office and Mogholhat Union Parishad



PHOTO: STAR

Erosion by the Dharla River has taken a serious turn, devouring areas in six villages of Mogholhat union under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila for the last few days. The photo was taken from Bumka village yesterday.

said about one hundred bighas of cropland besides aman paddy on 30 bighas of land went into the river due to the erosion during the period.

Habibur Rahman, chairman of Mogholhat Union Parishad, said people of the

areas are the worst sufferers for all the time as the river devoured vast croplands, a number of homesteads and government and non government establishments every year.

But the authorities are yet to take any remarkable steps

to check the erosion despite repeated pleas, he said.

Farooque Hossain, sub-assistant engineer of WDB in Lalmonirhat, said they already started work to thwart the erosion at different points in three villages.

Alleged burglar killed in mob beating, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

An alleged burglar was killed in a mob beating at Chhoto Kaibortokhali village in Rajapur upazila of the district early yesterday.

The deceased, Monir Hossain, 27, son of late Abdul Aziz Hawlader of the village, was a betel-nut trader at a local market.

Police quoting Habib Farajee, owner of the house, said Monir entered the house around 3:00am and started stealing valuables.

Sensing the presence of intruders in the room, Habib's son Fazlu Farajee cried for help.

Hearing scream, neighbours rushed in and caught Monir along with the stolen goods. They beat him up mercilessly, leaving him critically injured, police said.

Monir's wife Sumi Begum, also mother of three children, claimed that her husband was killed as a sequel to a previous enmity with some villagers.

The law-enforcers yesterday arrested two people, including Fazlu Farajee in connection with the murder.

3 insurance Co staff rescued hours after abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Police rescued three officials of an insurance company from Panchhari upazila headquarters area in the district on Tuesday evening, hours after their abduction.

They also arrested a man for his alleged involvement in the abduction, said Assistant Superintendent of Police Mohammad Sarwar Alam.

The arrestee was identi-

fied as Rohin Tripura, 40, son of Janathdhan Tripura of Maratila area in the upazila.

A gang, allegedly led by Rohin, in a car abducted the officials of National Life Insurance Company for Tk 70,000 ransom at noon when they were going to the office in the Maratila area.

Being informed, a police team raided the area and rescued the trio from the car. They also arrested Ripon.

However, his cohorts managed to flee.

During primary interrogation, the arrestee said he abducted the insurance company officials following the direction of the local leaders of the regional political party United People's Democratic Front (UPDF).

Contacted, Nirob Chakma, press and information secretary of UPDF, refuted the allegation of abduction of the officials.

EKRAM KILLING CASE

Fugitive accused Raju held

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested another accused in Fulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque killing case.

The arrestee is Rashedul Islam Raju alias Ruti Raju, 27. He is one of the charge sheeted accused in the case.

On secret information, the elite force raided Barahipur Gazi Cross Road in the town around 4:00pm and arrested Raju

from his house.

Raju went into hiding immediately after the killing of Ekramul.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case Abul Kalam Azad, also inspector of Feni Model Police Station, said a total of 56 people were charge sheeted in the case. He submitted the charge sheet to the court on August 28.

On November 12 the Feni Senior Judicial Magistrate Alamgir Hossain issued arrest warrant against 25 absconding accused

BSF detains 5 Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) detained five Bangladeshi nationals from near Baliaghat border in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj yesterday.

The detainees are, Shahid Ullah, 34, son of Abdur Rahman, Aminul Islam, 35, son of Anwar Uddin, Riton Mia, 28, son Reaz Uddin, Din Islam, 32, son of Abdur Rashid and Shahid Mia, 26, son of Hadis Mia, of Lalghat village of the upazila.

The detainees might have stepped into Indian territory mistakenly for collecting firewoods, said Subedar Golam Fier, BGB camp commander.

Transport workers block road protesting extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The transport workers blocked Dhaka-Rangpur highway in Sherua Battola area under Sherpur upazila yesterday in protest against attack on a truck driver by toll collectors.

They put up a truck on the highway around 9:00pm, causing immense sufferings to the passengers of 10 northern districts for about one hour.

The victim was identified as Azmal Hossain, 39, son of Sirajul Islam of Noymail

area in Shajahanpur upazila.

Police and witnesses said a member of Truck Lorry Covert-Van Labour Union intercepted a Dhaka-bound truck in the area and sought Tk 100 extortion from its driver Azmal.

As he denied, eight to 10 members of the union beat him up mercilessly, leaving him seriously injured.

As the news spread, the truck drivers blocked the highway, demanding immediate arrest of the attackers.

They later withdrew the

blockade around 10:00am following an assurance by police of taking punitive action against the attackers.

Contacted, Rafiqul Islam, secretary of Bogra district Truck Lorry Covert-van Labour Union, said it was nothing but a bit of misunderstanding.

The union was investigating the matter, he said.

Mizanur Rahman, officer in-charge of Sherpur Police Station, said police were raiding different areas to arrest the attackers of the truck driver.

Two listed criminals arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A police constable sustained bullet-wound during a gunfight between the law enforcers and a gang of listed criminals in Ganakpara area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

Police, however, arrested two of the gang members, Kana Sumon, 33, and Jewel, 30, from the spot.

Police said, being tipped-off, a police team raided the area around 3:30pm to nab locals criminals Kana Sumon and Jewel.



PHOTO: STAR

Large canopies cover the ground of Hasan Ali Government High School in Chandpur town as preparation is on for holding a month-long Bijoy Mela (victory fair) there from December 1.

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