



A large number of indigenous people gather on the premises of Dinajpur Institute in the town to join a programme there marking the 160th Santhal Hul yesterday. The ethnic minority people have reiterated the demand for ensuring their safety and right on ancestral lands.

160TH SANTHAL REBELLION DAY OBSERVED

Ensure rights, form separate land commission

Plain land indigenous people iterate demands at Dinajpur rally

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The indigenous people at programmes marking the 160th Santhal Hul (rebellion) Day yesterday have reiterated their demands for ensuring their constitutional rights and adequate steps for saving them from land grabbers.

Marking the day, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP) organised a mass gathering at Dinajpur Institute premises on Tuesday to raise their voice to formulate a separate land commission for the plain land indigenous people, reports our correspondent.

The historic rebellion against the oppression of upper caste zamindars and British colonial officials in Jharkhand of India started on June 30 in 1855 under the leadership of four

Murmu brothers Sidhu, Kanhu, Chand and Bhairav.

But the then British government brutally crushed the rebellion, killing the indigenous people in thousands and causing massive destruction to their villages.

Indigenous people face various types of discrimination while land grabbers are becoming more and more desperate to occupy their lands in absence of justice, said JAP president Rabindranath Soren, who presided over the rally.

At least 20 indigenous people were murdered by land grabbers and 520 people of Rangpur-Dinajpur region left Bangladesh in last 15 years as land grabbers harassed them in different ways including filing of false cases, he said.

Addressing the rally as chief guest, Prof Mizanur

Rahman, chairman of National Human Rights Commission, emphasised the need for a separate land commission for the indigenous people living in plain land.

Shaheen Anam, chief executive of Manusher Janno Foundation, in her speech said the indigenous people should carry on their movement until their rights are realised.

Sanjib Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, also addressed the programme, among others.

Our Thakurgaon Correspondent adds: Indigenous people yesterday brought out a colourful procession in the town and held a discussion at the auditorium of Thakurgaon Press Club marking the 160th anniversary of the

Santhal Hul.

After so many years of the sacrifice of thousands of Santals in their struggle against oppression, the ethnic minority communities are yet to get their social, economic and political rights, speakers said at the meeting.

They demanded meeting their nine-point demand including establishing constitutional rights of indigenous people, formation of a separate land commission to protect their land rights, and mother tongue-based primary education for their children.

Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Chandra Biswas attended the programme as chief guest at the programme jointly organised by Jatiya Adivasi Parishad and ESDO Premdip Project.

Teesta onslaught renders 170 families homeless in 3 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Kapasia.

Croplands, homesteads, trees and plants have been eroded during the period, said local people.

"Within the last 24 hours, my one and a half bighas of cropland had gone into the river. I may loss my three decimals of homestead any time," said Lokman Ali, a peasant of Haripur ghat in the upazila.

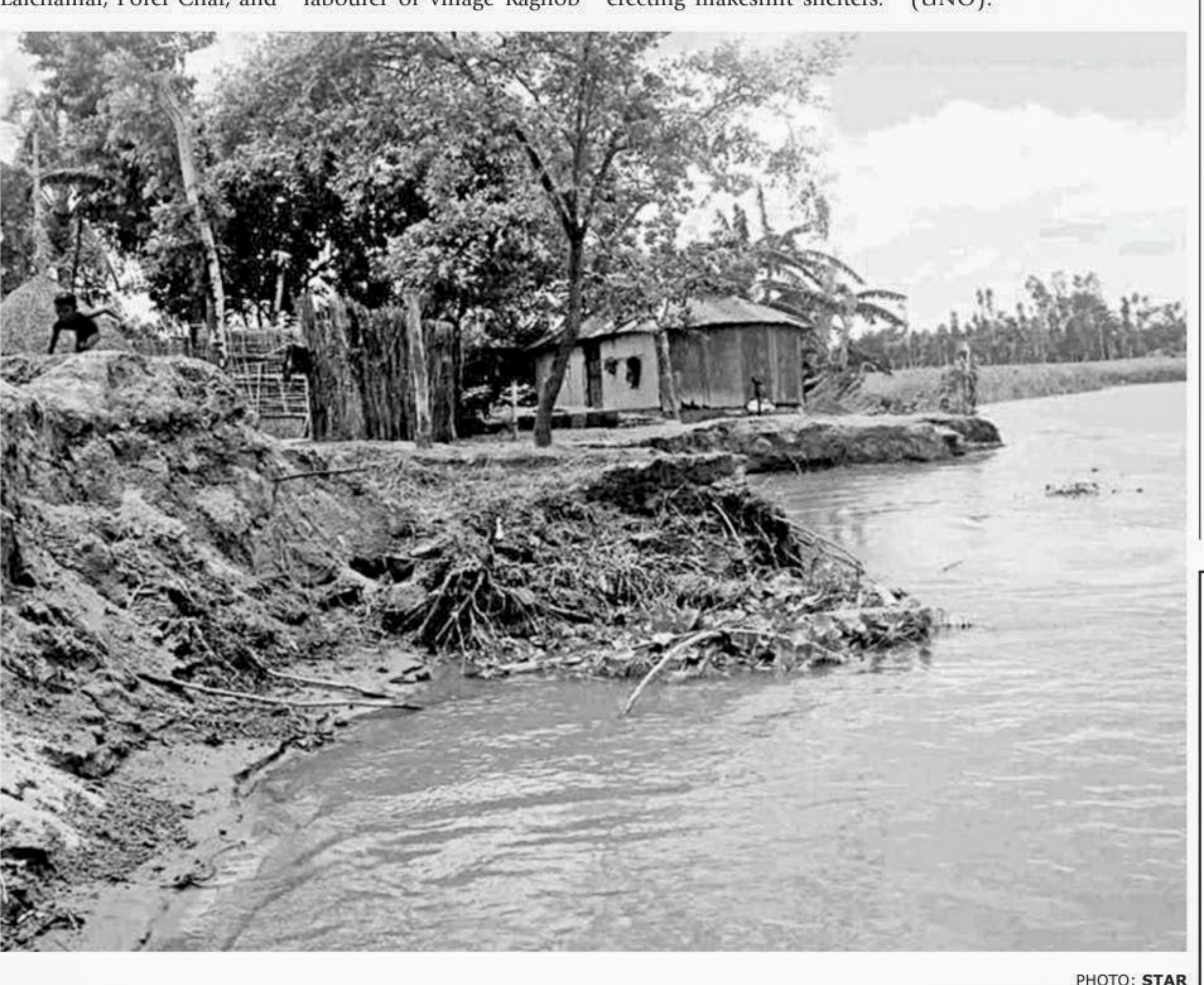
Hafizur Rahaman, a day labourer of village Raghab, Lalchamar, Porer Char, and

in Haripur union said, "My homestead on two and a half decimals of land was eroded by the river on Saturday night. Neighbours helped me to shift household articles to a safer place."

"Everyday, a large number of erosion-hit people are seen shifting their belongings to safer places. Many of them have taken shelter on the flood control dyke, erecting makeshift shelters. (UNO).

They are suffering from lack of food and pure drinking water," said Bidhut Kumar Dev Sarma, member of Haripur Union Parishad.

The list of the erosion-affected victims has been sent to the concerned authority for allocation of relief materials, which will be distributed as soon as we receive it, said Abdul Hye Milton, Sundarganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).



The Teesta River devours homesteads and croplands at Tarapur in Sundarganj upazila under Gaibandha district.

COUNTRY

Two sisters raped in Barisal, two held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Criminals raped two siblings at Rajapur village in Mehendiganj upazila of the district yesterday.

Police arrested one Alamgir Hossain, 35, and his associate Moyna Begum, 16, of the village.

Last week, the victims' mother went to visit their father working in Dhaka. The couple has three daughters.

Police said on Monday evening, neighbour Moyna Begum, daughter of Moslem Mia, came to visit the three sisters, students of a local school, at their home and offered them soft drinks. After having the drinks, the trio became unconscious.

Early in the morning, one of the sisters regained her sense and found Alamgir and another youth violating her two siblings.

When she cried for help, the accused fled the scene, giving them death threat.

A case was filed with Mehendiganj Police Station in connection with the incident, officer-in-charge Ujjal Kumar Dey said, adding that they are raiding different areas to arrest the other accused.

The victims were sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for medical test, said the OC.

In Munshiganj, police arrested a madrasa teacher on charge of raping a female student in Sirajdikan upazila of the district yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The arrestee is Abdul Hamid, teacher of Azizia Maksudul Ulum Madrasa in Isapur union.

The victim's mother alleged that Hamid raped the eighth grader of the madrasa in a room of the institution in the morning.

On information, police arrested the teacher at the madrasa in the afternoon, said Yearous Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sirajdikan Police Station.

Four AL men among 60 sued for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Sixty people, including four local leaders and activists of ruling Awami League and its associate bodies, have been sued on charge of killing a man during a clash over a land dispute in Habiganj Sadar upazila on June 17.

Victim's brother advocate Nuruzaman filed a murder case with Habiganj Judicial Magistrate's Court around 2:00pm on Sunday, accusing 60 people. None of the accused was arrested till filing of this report as of yesterday.

The accused AL leaders are Salek Mia, president of Sayestaganj municipality unit of AL, Abdul Mukit, president of Jubo league Sayestaganj unit, and local AL activists and ward councillors Afzal Ali and Abdul Motin.

According to the case statement, two groups of people of Biramchar village in Habiganj Sadar upazila clashed over capturing a disputed land at the village on June 17, leaving at least 50 people from both sides injured.

Of the injured, Sundar Ali, son of Ayub Ali of the village, succumbed to his injuries at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital on June 23.

Correction

We sincerely regret printing the wrong designation of one of the participants in the half page supplement that was published on the 28th of June, titled, "Midwifery led Maternal Health Care and Ending Obstetric Fistula".

Professor Murshed Chowdhury is the principal of Osmani Medical College and not a professor of sociology at SUST.

BOMB ATTACK ON TRUCK DURING BLOCKADE

40 Jamaat-Shibir, BNP men charge-sheeted in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police on Sunday pressed charges against 40 Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men in a case for petrol bomb attack on a rice-laden truck in Ghoraghata upazila of the district on the night of January 21.

Last week, the victims' mother went to visit their father working in Dhaka. The couple has three daughters.

Police said on Monday evening, neighbour Moyna Begum, daughter of Moslem Mia, came to visit the three sisters, students of a local school, at their home and offered them soft drinks. After having the drinks, the trio became unconscious.

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