

Hundreds in misery as Dharla devours houses, croplands

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Centenarian Sharat Chandra Devnath sat on the Dharla river bank, looking very upset, as his homestead with 15 decimals of land at Devnathpara village of Mogholhat union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila is under the threat of erosion.

"I lost my three bighas of croplands to the Dharla on Friday afternoon. It was the last remaining portion of my 30 bighas of land that went into the riverbed in last few years," he said.

Fatema Begum, 42, wife of Maha Alam Miah, was crying, sitting on the river embankment as her family lost homestead with 10 decimals of land due to the river erosion at Sarkertari village of the same union on Friday afternoon.

Rezia Begum, 46, wife of Aminul Islam, Dulali Rani, 32, wife of Binod Chandra Devnath, Delejan Begum, 45, wife of Mohor Ali, are also among those who lost their homesteads, croplands, and orchards due to erosion by the Dharla River at Sarkertari, Devnathpara and Badaitari villages of Mogholhat union in last three days.

"I had made our homestead beautiful with greenery. It was our dream home. But the Dharla has devoured it, rendering our six-member family helpless," said Fatema Begum of Sarkertari village.



PHOTO: STAR

PAIN OF LOSING HOME: Like many others in the area, Fatema Begum lost her homestead due to erosion by the Dharla River at Sarkertari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila during the last three days.

"We have taken shelter on the public road after losing homestead, two bighas of cropland and a bamboo cluster due to erosion by the Dharla on Friday," said Binod Chandra Devnath of Devnathpara village.

Badaitari village said he along with his five other family members have taken shelter at a relative's house after losing homestead, six bighas cropland and two bamboo clusters due to the same reason.

"At least 120 homesteads, 250 bighas of

croplands, 12 bamboo clusters and four orchards in three villages have already been eroded by the Dharla in last three days. I have informed the Water Development Board authority, seeking measures for checking the erosion," said local union

parishad member Mazibar Rahman.

Shibendu Khastagir, executive engineer of WDB in Lalmonirhat, said WDB officials will start a temporary work to check the erosion at these villages in two or three days.

Bank robbery bid foiled in Manikganj, two held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police arrested two robbers when they were trying to commit robbery at Exim Bank Manikganj branch on Shahid Rafique Road in the district town on Friday night.

The arrestees are Arif Hossain, 40, son of Abdul Khalek of Char Matta in Manikganj municipality area, and Shahinur Rahman, 35, son of Saeed Ali of Daulatpur village in Nawabganj upazila of Dhaka.

The robbers damaged 10 closed-circuit (CC) cameras and other valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh, said Bank Manager Nur Mohammad Ansary.

Aminur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Manikganj

Police Station, said Shahinur and his cohort Ali entered the bank by breaking open the grill of the window while Arif was waiting outside the bank around 7:00pm.

The duo unlocked the main gate of the vault and tried to open it to loot money.

At 10:46pm, the bank manager got signal by GPS, a software installed on his cellphone, and soon informed the OC about the robbery bid.

The law enforcers then rushed to the spot and the robbers blasted three cocktails, sensing the presence of the policemen, said Sub-Inspector Dipankar Roy.

In self defense, a policeman fired gunshots at them and arrested Arif and Shahinur. However, their other cohorts managed to flee the scene.

Shahinur was admitted to National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), Dhaka with bullet injuries in the right leg.

The bank manger filed a robbery case while the SI lodged a case against eight people, including the arrestees, under Explosives Substances Act.

Police are raiding different areas to arrest the other robbers, said Additional Superintendent of Police Jakir Hasan.



PHOTO: STAR

Criminals broke into the vault room of Exim Bank branch in Manikganj town on Friday night but their robbery bid was foiled as the bank manager, being aware of the matter through a GPS signal on his mobile, informed the police who took prompt action and arrested two alleged robbers.

Father burns hands of 2 girls over stealing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Two children sustained burn injuries as their father set fire to their hands over stealing of Tk10 at Dolakandi village in Sadar upazila of Laxmipur district on Friday.

The victims are Sabrin Sultana, 8, a Class II student of Ramarkhil Islamia Madrasa, and Nujhat

Tabassum, 5, daughters of Nur Mohammad of the village. They were admitted to Laxmipur Modern Hospital.

On information, police arrested Nur Mohammad at the hospital in this connection.

Gias Uddin Mia, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said Nur Mohammad found Tk 10 missing from his wallet in

the morning. Later, he put the left hands of his daughters on a burning gas stove, holding them responsible for stealing the money.

The incident came to light when the two were admitted to the hospital with burn injuries at night.

The victims' mother Suriya Afrin filed a case in connection with the incident, said the OC.

SNIPPETS

Jubo League man murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A Jubo-league leader was hacked to death in Sonaimuri upazila of the district early yesterday. The victim, Milon Sarker, 36, son of Md Naderuzzaman of Deuti village, was office secretary of Deuti union unit of Jubo league. Officer-in-Charge (OC) Joydeb Kumar of Sonaimuri Police Station quoted locals as saying that an unidentified gang swooped on Milon when he came out of his house at around 1:00am for fishing at a nearby water body. The gang hit Milon with sharp weapons and left the scene. He died on the spot. Being informed, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Noakhali Abdul Malek Ukil Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Contacted, OC Joydeb said they are trying to unearth clue to the murder and arrest the killers.

Listed criminal arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pubna

A listed criminal was arrested after a gunfight with police in Ishwardi upazila town early yesterday. The arrestee is Md Mahmudul Hasan, alias Sonamoni, 28, son of Abdus Samad of Piarakhali village under Ishwardi municipality area. Sonamoni is a listed criminal and accused in 18 cases, police said. Biman Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said law enforcers, acting on a tip-off, raided Hothatpara area in the town at around 3:00am. Sensing the presence of the police, Sonamoni and his cohorts opened fire, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate. Sonamoni received bullet injury during the gunfight while his cohorts managed to flee. Three cops also were injured during the clash, police said.

bKash agent robbed of Tk 3 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A gang of criminals took away Tk 3 lakh from a bkash agent at Chelopara intersection of Bogra town at around 7:00am yesterday. The gang stormed into the shop of Proshanto Kumar, 27, beat him up mercilessly and looted the money. Locals took injured Proshanto to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital (SZMCH). Contacted, Abul Bashar, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station, said the agent informed him about the attack over mobile phone. Police are trying to arrest the criminals involved, the OC added.

Student stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A student of Shachindra College in Baniarchang upazila of Habiganj district was stabbed to death by a student of the same college yesterday. The dead was identified as Sumon Miah, 19, son of Mukhlesur Rahman of Islampur village in the upazila. He was a first year student of the college. Witnesses said Shihab, a second year student, stabbed Sumon while he was standing in front of the main entrance to the college at noon. Critically injured Sumon was taken to Habiganj Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. Police said Shihab attacked Sumon as a sequel to a previous enmity.

Two hurt in gas explosion

UNB, Laxmipur

Two people suffered burn injuries as a gas cylinder exploded at a restaurant at Dakkhin Temohoni in the town on Friday night. The victims are restaurant employees Harunur Rashid, son of Nur Islam of Kalichar village under Sadar upazila, and Firoj Alam, son of Ashraf Ali of Charfalkon village in Kamalnagar upazila.

Abducted Sherpur school kid found murdered

A CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

A schoolboy, abducted from Gridanarayanpur area of Sherpur town on August 2, was found dead in Burunga area under Nalitabari upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim, Arafat Islam Rahat, was a Class I student of Biplop-Lopa Memorial School, and son of Shahidul Islam Khokon of Gridanarayanpur area of Sherpur town.

A gang picked up Rahat from in front of Shaheed Daroga Ali Municipal Park

in the town while he was going to his father's timber shop in Shibbari area in the afternoon.

The abductors later demanded Tk 2 lakh as ransom from Shahidul over mobile phone for release of his son. Shahidul informed police of the matter and filed a case with Sadar Police Station.

On August 4, police arrested Rahat's maternal uncle Abdul Latif, and two others—Robin Miah, 21, and Imran Hasan 21-- from different areas of the town, suspecting their involve-

ment in the kidnapping.

During interrogation, the arrestees confessed to kidnapping the boy and disclosed the name of another kidnapper named Aslam Mia.

Police arrested Aslam, 22, from a char area in Sreebordi upazila of the district on Friday night. On the basis of his statement, the law enforcers recovered Arafat's decomposed body from Burunga area.

Aslam told police that they kidnapped Rahat for ransom and later strangled him as per the directive of Latif.

Arrest of ward councillor sparks protest from locals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Arrest of a ward councillor of Phulbari municipality under the district has sparked protest from locals.

Police said they arrested councillor Motahar Ali from Nimtola area in Phulbari town on Friday evening and sent him to jail through a court yesterday as he is an accused in a tree stealing case filed by Mokhlesur Rahman of Barokona village on August 6.

Talking with local jour-

nalists, Mokhlesur Rahman said, "I just filed a complaint over a tree stealing incident on August 5, but I did not follow it up later. Police recorded a case in this regard on August 6."

Protesting Motahar Ali's arrest and demanding his immediate release, locals of the ward besieged Phulbari Police Station yesterday.

The protesters said police arrested Motahar Ali as he was one of the front runners in organising movement against dishonesty of Md Mostaque Ahmed, officer in

charge (OC) of Phulbari Police Station.

"People in Phulbari upazila staged a demonstration on July 23, protesting dishonest activities of the OC," said Mozahar Ali, a resident of the area.

Later, the protesters left the police station as Golam Mortuza Manik, mayor of Phulbari municipality, assured them of looking into the matter.

Contacted, OC Mostaque Ahmed claimed himself innocent.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals demonstrate demanding release of Motahar Ali, arrested councillor of Phulbari municipality under Dinajpur district, and withdrawal of a 'false case' against the public representative.

Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Head Office, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar Chittagong

জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অঙ্গাধিকার

Notice for Enlistment of Legal Adviser (Retainer) and Panel Advocates

Applications are hereby invited in plain paper from the members of the District Bar Council of Dhaka and Chittagong for appointment of Legal Advisers (one for Dhaka & one for Chittagong) and 08 (eight) Panel Advocates for Dhaka & 12 (twelve) Panel Advocates for Chittagong for a period of two years. Selected candidates will conduct various suits in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Civil & Criminal Courts in Chittagong on behalf of Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Ltd. (KGDC) on the following terms and conditions:

- The applicants must have 10 (ten) years experience as legal practitioner in different courts & having at least 05 (five) years experience in High Court Division & legal practitioner having a Bar-at-Law/LL.M or PhD in any discipline of law will be given preference.
- Retired District Judges who are engaged in legal practice are eligible to apply.
- The applicants must be Bangladeshi by birth & must possess a good physique.
- The Legal Advisers will be paid a monthly retainer fee of Tk 1,000.00 (one thousand). Legal Advisers and Panel Advocates will be paid legal fees separately as per KGDC's scheduled rate(s).
- Advocates engaged as Legal Adviser/Retainer in any other organisation are not eligible to apply for appointment as Legal Adviser/Retainer in KGDC.
- Advocates already engaged as Legal Advisers and Panel Lawyers at KGDC should apply afresh as per present terms and conditions.
- In case of resignation or termination of Legal Advisers and Panel Lawyers, each party shall have to submit 30 (thirty) days prior written notice.
- No TADA will be paid to the applicants for their presence in front of the Enlistment Committee if needed.
- KGDC reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all applications without showing any cause. The decision of the company in respect of the enlistment of Legal Advisers or Panel Lawyers will be final. Any persuasion will be deemed as incompetency of the applicants.
- Interested candidates should submit 02 (two) sets of application stating name, father's & mother's/husband's name, present and permanent address, 02 (two) attested copies of certificates regarding nationality, experience, qualifications and 02 (two) copies of recent passport size photographs duly attested by First Class Gazetted Officer directly to the Secretary, Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Co. Ltd., Head Office, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Chittagong within 15 (fifteen) days from the day of publication of this notice.
- The words "Application for the post of Legal Adviser/Panel Advocate" should be mentioned on the top of the application and envelope.

Company Secretary
Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Co. Ltd.

GD-2593