

Jamuna erosion takes alarming turn

150 families in Islampur upazila of Jamalpur made homeless in 8 days

ABM AMINUL ISLAM, Jamalpur

The Jamuna has devoured large areas near Guthail hard point at Belgachha Ghonapara village in Islampur upazila under the district in last eight days, leaving at least 150 families homeless.

The river erosion turned serious as a 200-metre area emerged in the middle of a 700-metre curved riverbank in the area after the recent floods and the bank shifted 50-metre south-eastward, said sources of local Water Development Board (WDB).

As the severe erosion started on the Eid day on September 25, the joy of

festival eluded around 50 families as they had to shift their houses with their belongings, said local trader Bodiuzzaman and van-pullers Lutfor, Laju, Sohrawardi, who were victims of the situation that day.

Centuries-old Guthail Bazar along with its connecting road from Islampur upazila headquarters, and Belgachha Ghonapara Government Primary School, two mosques and a temple of the village, are under threat due to the erosion, said locals.

Several other institutions and set-ups including a college, schools, banks and NGOs will also face the

threat if the erosion continues for long, said Abdul Khaleque Akanda, chairman of Belgachha union parishad.

During a visit to the spot yesterday, this correspondent found some people shifting their houses and belongings as the erosion neared.

Some of the erosion-hit families were staying in makeshift home near the eroding bank while others shifted their belongings on the space beside Islampur-Guthail road, taking shelter at their relatives' homes.

Losing all of the six decimals of land to the riverbed, sexagenarian widow

Monowara was seen staying under the open sky with family members.

Nabakumar Chowdhury, executive engineer of WDB in Jamalpur, along with the chief engineer visited the spot on Saturday.

"We have decided to take emergency protection work by dumping 10 thousand geo-bags. The work will start on Sunday or Monday," he said.

A Tk 217-crore project proposal for permanent solution to the erosion covering 5.35-kilometres from Kulkandi hard point to Guthail hard point was sent to the Planning Commission on September 22, he added.



PHOTO: STAR
The Jamuna has continued devouring large areas near Guthail hard point at Belgachha Ghonapara village in Islampur upazila under Jamalpur district for the last eight days. Inset, a family, losing most of their landed property to the river, stays under the open sky on the remaining part of their homestead.



Two sisters commit suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two siblings allegedly committed suicide at Boaldar village in Hakimpur upazila of the district on Friday.

The deceased are Amena Khatun, 18, and Yeasmin Khatun, 15, daughters of Aynul Haque of the village.

Amena married one Aminul Islam of Monaspur village last year while Yeasmin was a student of Class IX of Boaldar School and College.

Locals said their father became furious and rebuked Amena and Yeasmin over a family matter in the evening.

Feeling severely insulted, the duo entered a room at their house, closed it from inside and started playing songs in a CD player with full volume.

On suspicion, the family members knocked the door asking them to open it but no response came from inside.

They later broke open the door and found the sisters hanging from the ceiling with a single rope.

They were rushed to the upazila health complex where on-duty doctors declared them dead at 7:20pm.

A pall of gloom descended in the area following the deaths of the two siblings.

Mokhlesur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Hakimpur Police Station, confirmed the incident.

PBCP's road blocked in Khagrachhari today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Parbatya Bangali Chhatra Parishad (PBCP) will enforce dawn-to-dusk road blockade in Khagrachhari-Chittagong road today, demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the killers of Abdul Matin of Manikchhari upazila.

Mohammad Mostafa Kamal, assistant organising secretary of (PBCP) Khagrachhari unit, announced the blockade programme through a press release yesterday.

He said they had given an ultimatum of 96 hours to the local administration through a human chain held at Guchhagram area of the upazila last Tuesday to arrest the killers of Abdul Matin, but police are yet to arrest anyone.

He urged locals to make the blockade programme a success.

Abdul Matin, 60, of Manikchhari upazila was killed on September 3 by a gang of criminals over alleged land dispute with some Marma youths.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Md Syeduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Singair Police Station.

The victim's father alleged that Tofazzal strangled his daughter and later hung the body from the ceiling, showing it as a suicide case.

The law enforcers detained Tofazzal for interrogation, said police.



PHOTO: STAR
ABM Ahsan Reza, headmaster of Naokhila PN High School in Sariakandi upazila under Bogra district, receives £1000 as donation from Scotland for repair of the flood-hit schoolhouse, at a programme arranged at Bogra Government Girls' High School yesterday.

Flood-hit Bogra school gets donation from Scotland

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

British Council's Connecting Classrooms project yesterday donated £1000 collected from Scotland for the reconstruction of flood-hit Naokhila PN High School in Chandanbaisha union of Sariakandi upazila under the district.

The motto of the project is to create global citizenship sharing in education and conducting cultural and social activities in both the countries.

Under the project, Bogra Government Girls' High School has been working in

partnership with Alford Academy, Scotland, since 2007, sources said.

When Sorly Johnson and Don Lesley, teachers of Alford Academy came to Bangladesh to visit Bogra schools last year, they paid a visit to Naokhila PN High School, Sariakandi, as they saw reports of its plight in the media including The Daily Star.

They decided to help its renovation and for the purpose, they collected £1000 at a cultural programme in Scotland.

Headmistress of Bogra Government Girls' School

Rabeya Khatun handed over the money to ABM Ahsan Reza, headmaster of Naokhila PN High School, on behalf of British Council's Connecting Classrooms project in presence of local lawmaker (Sariakandi-Sonotola) Abdul Mannan and acting Deputy Commissioner of Bogra Khorshed Alam yesterday.

"On August 23, I sent the copy of The Daily Star report through e-mail to Scotland and they sent the money for the renovation of the school," said ABM Ahsan Reza.

DRIVE AGAINST HILSA NETTING

Fishermen swoop on mobile court, police patrol team

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A mobile court led by Baufal upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) came under attack by fishermen, who were fishing hilsa in the Kalaiya River, defying a temporary ban on Friday night, reports our Patuakhali correspondent.

At least two people sustained injuries as the fishermen threw bricks chips at the team members during the drive against hilsa netting, said Md Abdullah Mahmud Al Zaman, UNO of Baufal upazila.

The injured are Abdur Rahim, driver of the trawler, and his helper Limon, 20, of Kalaiya village under the upazila. They took treatment at a local clinic.

"At about 11:30pm, when we were patrolling the Kalaiya River, we came under attack by a group of unidentified fishermen, who were annoyed with us

as they couldn't catch hilsa. They threw bricks chips at us from the bank of the river," the UNO said.

"Our trawler went out of order and another trawler rescued us at around 3:00am on Saturday," he said, adding that they seized around 20,000 metres of net and 2 kgs hilsa during the drive.

Abul Hasanat, Patuakhali district fisheries officer, said a group of local fishermen are catching hilsa in different rivers in the district, defying the ban.

With the help of local administration, drives to save mother hilsa are continuing in different rivers in the district, he added.

Our Barisal correspondent reported that a police patrol team fired 15 rounds of blank shots as fishermen protesting ban against hilsa netting attacked the team on the Meghna River under

Hizla upazila of the district the same night.

Golam Sarwar, officer-in-charge of Hizla Police Station, said law enforcers also seized four fishing trawlers and around 40 thousand metres of fishing net, but the fishermen managed to flee the scene.

Police said they challenged and chased a group of fishermen on the Meghna River near Char Abupur under Hizla Police Station at around 10:00pm.

As the fishermen started throwing brick chips at the law enforcers, they fired 15 rounds of blank shots to disperse the fishermen. They later seized the fishing trawlers and nets from the scene.

Helaluddin, sub-inspector of the police station, lodged a case on Saturday, accusing 300 unnamed fishermen, said the OC.

SNIPPETS

10 handed over to BGB

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore
Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday handed over seven children, two women and a man, who were arrested on charge of entering India illegally the day before, to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) through Benapole check post in Jessore district yesterday morning. They were arrested at Haridaspur border point on Friday night, said Lt Col Jahangir Hossain, commanding officer of BGB-26 Battalion. The ten hail from different areas of Narail and Bagerhat districts.

Jubo Dal leader held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj
Police arrested a local leader of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal in Bidirpur area of the district town on Friday night. The arrestee is Raja Babu, 30, organising secretary of Chapainawabganj municipality unit of Jubo Dal, and a resident of the area. Raja was arrested on charge of threatening to blow off the office of a local newspaper. Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sadar Model Police Station, said Kamal Uddin, editor of the Daily Chapai Chitro, filed a complaint with Sadar Police Station against Raja on Thursday night. Raja Babu was produced before a court which sent him to jail yesterday.

Body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore
Police recovered the unidentified body of a man from the River Isamoti in Putkhali border area under Benapole Port Police Station of Jessore district yesterday morning. The body was sent to Jessore Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Apurba Hasan, officer-in-charge of the PS. Police suspected that the man drowned while he was going to India, crossing the river.

Kid drowns in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur
A 16-month-old boy drowned in a pond in Melandah upazila of the district yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Mahin, son of Monohar of Beparipara area in the upazila town. Locals and family members said Mahin fell into the pond near their house while playing on its bank and drowned.

UP chairman suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur
A union parishad chairman in Nawabganj upazila was suspended as a court accepted the charge sheet in a case filed against him for election related violence in January 2014. The chairman is Md Ahsanul Kabir Shamim of Bhaduria UP. The court accepted the charge sheet in December last year. The local government ministry suspended him through a letter issued on September 29.

Housewife gang-raped in Joypurhat, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A housewife was allegedly gang-raped in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat district yesterday.

Police arrested two men in connection with the incident. The arrestees are Firoz Mandal, 40, of Akdala village in the upazila, and Mahfuzar Rahman, 42, of Tarakul village in Khetlal upazila.

Police said the duo had developed relationship with the victim over cellphone.

Luring the woman to provide better job, they took her to Kalai upazila from Thakurgaon district on Friday night and confined her to a house there. They later raped her overnight.

Being informed, police raided the area in the early morning and rescued her. The law enforcers also arrested Firoz and Mahfuzar from the spot.

The victim was later sent to Joypurhat Modern Hospital for medical test, said Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kalai Police Station.

A case was filed in this connection.

In Manikganj, a housewife was found dead at Uttar Kangsha village in Singair upazila of the district the same day, reports our correspondent.

The dead is Sheuly Akter, 32, wife of Tofazzal Hossain of the village. She was mother of two sons and a daughter.

Police and family sources said Sheuly, daughter of Sayeed Bepary of Charabhanga village, married Tofazzal 15 years ago.

Tofazzal often tortured Sheuly over trivial matters. Tofazzal beat up Sheuly on Friday afternoon. Later, Sheuly was found hanging from the ceiling of a room at her husband's house.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Md Syeduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Singair Police Station.

The victim's father alleged that Tofazzal strangled his daughter and later hung the body from the ceiling, showing it as a suicide case.

The law enforcers detained Tofazzal for interrogation, said police.

'Robber' killed in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A suspected robber died in mob beating when his gang was preparing to commit robbery at Gobindapur village under Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday.

The deceased is Nuruddin, alias Nura Chora, 25, son of Seraj Mian of Madanpur village under Charshahi union of the upazila.

Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Chandraganj Police Station, said locals chased a gang of robbers when they were preparing to commit robbery in the area at around 4:00am.

At one stage, they caught Nura Chora and beat him dead.



PHOTO: STAR
Cool kids join a human chain organised by Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik at the Central Shaheed Minar in Sylhet city yesterday marking the International Day of Non-violence, observed across the world on October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.