

Girl's parents hurt as stalker turns crazy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A man and his wife were injured in an attack by criminals as they protested stalking of their college going daughter at Kazir haat panir tank area in Saidpur municipality of the district yesterday.

The girl's mother Rumi Begum, 45, was admitted to Saidpur 100-bed Hospital.

A case was filed with Saidpur Police Station against 'stalker' Bangru Hossain, son of Tafur Ali of the area, and four of his accomplices in this connection.

Police and locals said Bangru used to stalk Nadira Afroz, 20, daughter of grocer Yakub Ali, 52, of the same area, an honours student of Nilphamari Government College.

Informed by their daughter, the parents recently complained to the father of the youth in this regard but to no result.

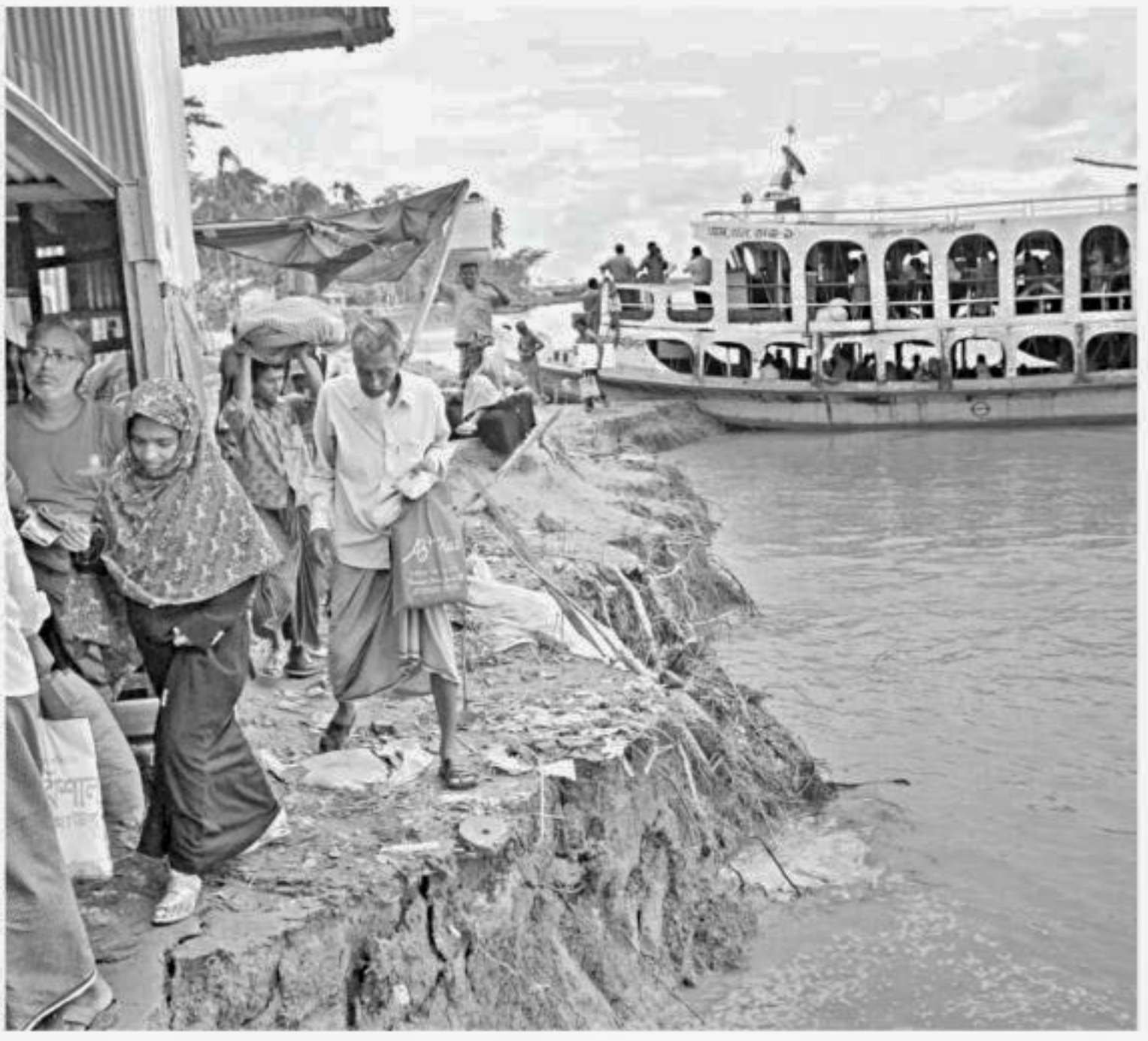
Bangru continued stalking the girl, compelling her to stop going to college.

The parents then brought the matter to the notice of a Saidpur municipality councillor who rebuked the eve-teaser on Saturday evening and warned him of stern action if he commits the same offence further.

As the incident angered Bangru, he along with his men yesterday stormed the house of Nadira and attacked the parents with bamboo sticks and iron rods. They also assaulted the girl. Seriously injured Rumi Begum was rushed to the 100-bed hospital.

"The accused continued threatening us to withdraw the case and seek apology," said the college girl.

Tough action will be taken against the culprits after investigating the matter, said Officer-in-Charge of Saidpur Police Station.



The Tentulia has devoured the launch terminal and the adjacent bazar at Sreepur in Mehendiganj upazila under Barisal district, making it risky to board launches and getting down from there. Right, a scene of erosion by the Pungli River at Shamshoil village in Gohaliabari union of Kalihati upazila under Tangail.

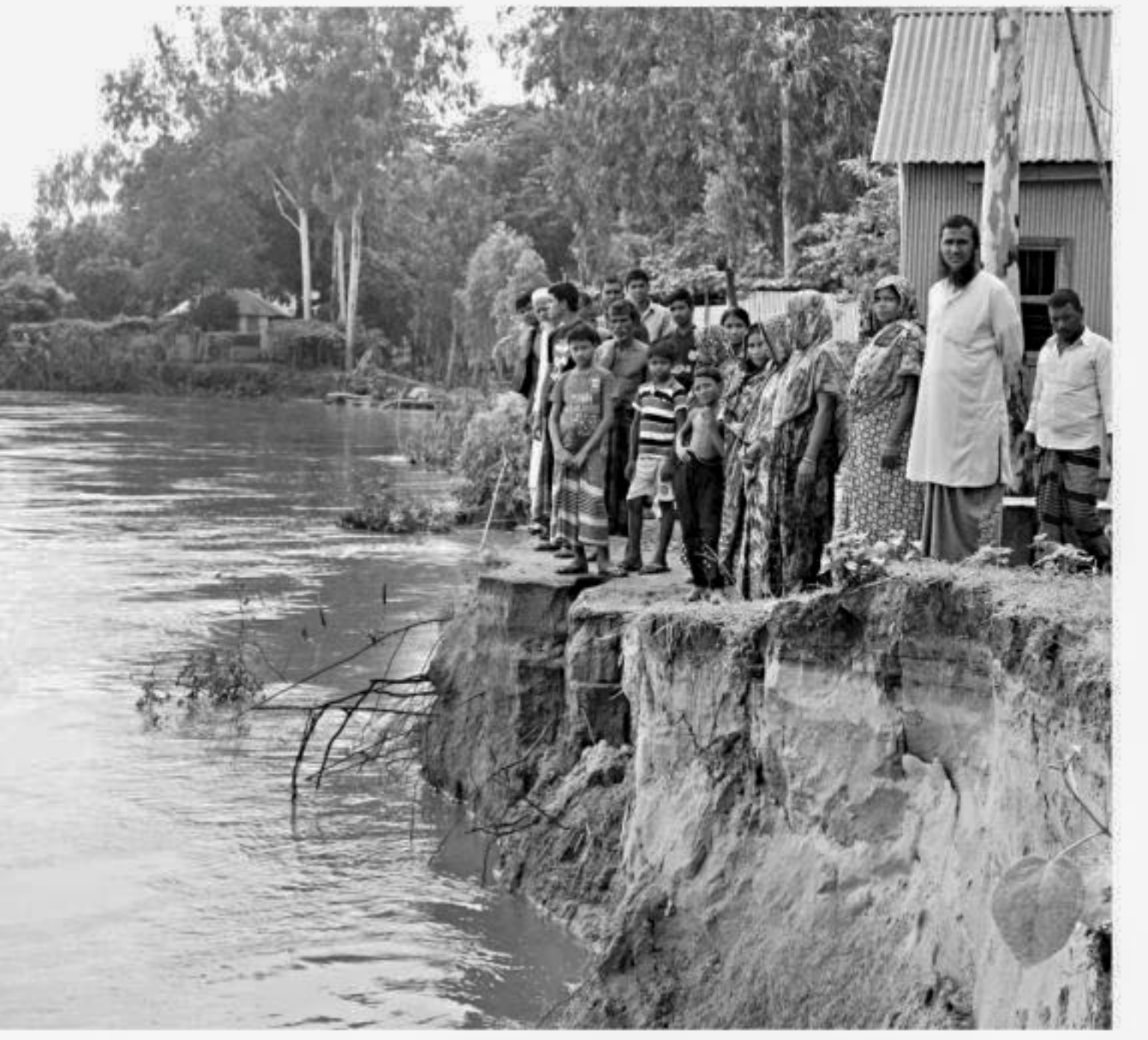


PHOTO: STAR

Launch terminal goes into river in Barisal

100 houses washed away in Tangail

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Erosion by the Pungli River, a tributary of the mighty Jamuna River, has turned serious in Kalihati upazila of Tangail. In Barisal, the Tetulia River has washed away many establishments and the launch terminal at Sreepur union under Mehendiganj upazila.

In Kalihati upazila of Tangail, over 100 dwelling houses and vast areas of farmland at Beltia, Shamshoil, Alipur, Afzalpur, Binod Luhuria, Biara Marua, Kurshabenu, Benukursha, Jokarchar, Mir Hamjani, Hatia, Mogra, Tikuriapara and Bashi villages have gone into the river bed since the beginning of the rainy season, reports our correspondent.

The erosion affected families have taken shelter in others people's houses or under the open sky, and are living in utter misery. Fazlul Haque, 70, of Shamshoil

village, said though he and many others of the village have lost everything, including their homesteads, none from any quarter has looked after them so far.

Osman Gani, 28, of Gohaliabari village, said though the area has been affected by the serious erosion and local people have lost their homesteads and farmlands every year, no measures have been taken as yet to check the erosion.

After visiting the erosion affected areas on Saturday, Abu Nasar Uddin, upazila nirbahi officer of Kalihati, told journalists that they have made lists of the affected people in the area for providing them necessary support.

"Money and corrugated tin to build houses were distributed among some of the erosion affected people a few weeks ago," he added.

Shahjahan Siraj, executive engineer of water development board

(WDB) in Tangail, said, "We have prepared a project to carry out emergency protection work at 12 spots from Tikuriapara in Kalihati upazila to Kashil in Basail upazila to check erosion. It has been sent to the ministry. The work will be started after getting approval."

The people of the affected villages alleged that the erosion has turned serious for the last few years due to sand lifting sand from the rivers by influential quarters.

Our Barisal correspondent reports: In Sreepur village under Mehendiganj upazila of the district, the Tetulia River has washed away the launch terminal and around 100 establishments, including bazars, homesteads and farmlands, in the last one month.

While this correspondent was visiting Sreepur bazar, he saw 100 metres of land, including a furniture shop, being washed away suddenly. "We have lost everything, now

we have nothing to start our business with," said Jakir Hossain, a victim of erosion, told this correspondent.

Dilip Paal, a victim, said, "We had to transfer everything from Paal Para due to river erosion."

Suvadara Rani Bepari, a seventy-year-old woman of Sreepur bazar, said, "We transferred our houses twice."

Mohammad Alam was crying on seeing his mother's and son's graves washed away by the Tetulia yesterday.

Locals said the Sreepur launch terminal and bazar area were eroded in a week, and if erosion continued the whole bazar would be gone.

Kazi Md Alimulla, upazila nirbahi officer of Mehendiganj, said erosion started from the last month. "We have requested the deputy commissioner to send emergency relief materials soon."

FERRY SHORTAGE, STRONG CURRENT DISRUPT SERVICES AT SHIMULIA, PATURIA



A large number of vehicles lie stranded at Shimulia ferry terminal on the Meghna in Munshiganj district, top, and Paturia on the Padma in Manikganj, middle, while five dysfunctional ferryboats lie anchored for repair at floating dock Modhumati near Paturia terminal yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Woman kills kid, commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A woman killed her four-year-old boy and committed suicide, allegedly over a family feud at Angaria village in Rajapur upazila of the district on Saturday.

The deceased are Sheuli Begum, 30, wife of Delwar Hossain, and their son Yousof, of the village.

Luckily their six-year-old daughter Chandni survived murder attempt by her mother.

Quoting Chandni, police said soon after a phone conversation with her husband Delwar, who lives in Dhaka, Sheuli destroyed all the furniture of her house on Saturday afternoon.

At one stage, she tied her and the two children's neck with a scarf and hung herself along with the two kids from the ceiling of her room.

Hearing Chandni's cry, who was hanging by holding her mother, neighbours

went to the spot and informed the police.

Police went to the spot, recovered the two bodies and rescued Chandni alive, Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Munirul Gias of Rajapur Police Station said.

Death threat to priest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Animesh Bhattacharya, priest of Jagannath Jiur Temple in Mehendiganj upazila of the district, yesterday received death threat.

"Unknown miscreants threatened me to go back from the temple. If I do not do this, they will kill me within seven days," said the priest.

He later filed a general diary with Mehendiganj Police Station in this regard, said Ujjal Kumar Dey, officer-in-charge of the PS.

8 Shibir men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested eight activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, a student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, in the district town on Saturday night.

They were held on charge of holding secret meeting, said Redwanur Rahim, officer-in-charge of Dinajpur Kotwali Police Station.

Lightning kills 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Two people were killed by lightning in Ranishankoil upazila of the district on Friday.

The victims are Amzad Hossain, 19, son of Hares Ali of Dharmagar Check post village, and Shampa Rani, 28, wife of Narendranath Roy of Ratore Baburia village.

DRIVE AGAINST MILITANTS

Tenants, students in fear of police harassment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Tenants, especially students of different messes and dormitories in Jhenidah town and its adjacent areas, are passing their days in constant panic fearing police harassment due to the ongoing drive against the militants.

To ease the harassments, house owners and police are collecting National Identity Cards and permanent addresses of the tenants.

Quoting locals, police said there are nearly 200 messes and students' dormitories at different areas in Sadar upazila, including Hamdahpara, Adarshapara, Beparipara, Arappur, Chaklapara, Pabhata, Modernpara, Collegepara, Paglakanapara, Wirelesspara, Sonalipara, Kalkapur and Hospital area in the town.

Nibras Islam and seven other alleged terrorists used to live at a mess in Sonalipara area of the town, they said.

those messes or dormitories but since the terrorists' attack at a café in the capital's Gulshan the number has decreased to 50 percent, locals added.

Mess owners said a large number of tenants are students of Islamic University (IU) as the university is only 25/30 kilometres away from Jhenidah town.

Kamrul Islam, a student of IU, said he is not staying in his mess since he learnt about the hideouts of Nibras and Abir through different newspapers.

After completing his private tuition he goes to his residence in Harinakundo upazila of the district instead of staying at his dormitory fearing police harassment.

Anup Biswas, a student of Jhenidah Polytechnic Institute, also a resident of Dinajpur said he is in a constant fear as he has no alternative to staying at his mess.

Altat Hossain, superintendent of police in Jhenidah, said police are preparing database of all the students of different messes as the IU is very close to Jhenidah town.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

JMB man held in Naogaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested an alleged member of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) at Bhabanipur Bazar in Atrai upazila of Naogaon on Saturday night. The arrestee is Julfikar Rahman Dinar, 42, son of late Sazedur Rahman of Bhabanipur village. He was accused in several criminal cases, said Md Badrudozza, officer-in-charge of Atrai Police Station. Yesterday, the arrestee was produced in a court that sent him to jail, said the OC.

College girl abducted

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Criminals abducted a college girl from Jessore Sadar upazila on Thursday. Family members said a gang of 3/4 allegedly led by Badhan Biswas Shanto, 21, son of Nazrul Biswas of Sadar upazila, picked up the girl in a microbus while she was on her way to college. The victim's father then filed a case with Sadar Police Station against Shanto, Nazrul Biswas and Abdul Mannan in this connection. Of them, Nazrul was held, said Officer-in-Charge Illias Hossain of the PS.

Missing trader's body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police recovered the body of a missing vegetable trader from the Jamuna River in Birampur upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased is Jahrul Islam, 35, son of Md Shamsuddin of Phulbari upazila. He went missing on Friday afternoon, said Shah Alam, sub-inspector of Birampur Police Station. The body was sent to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said the SI.



PHOTO: STAR

Students, teachers and staff of Debiganj Women's College bring out a procession in Debiganj upazila headquarters under Panchagarh district yesterday as part of an awareness campaign to resist terrorism and militancy.

Boy found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A teenage boy was found dead wrapped up with polythene in a jute sack in the district town yesterday. The deceased was Md Labu Ahmed, son of Rafiqul Islam of Golapbagh area in the town. The body was sent to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Criminals might have strangled the boy, said Md Redwanur Rahim, officer-in-charge of Dinajpur Kotwali Police station. The victim's father said some of his friends called him out of home on Saturday and he remained missing since then. A case was filed in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Part of this century-old banyan tree, once serving as a landmark of Thakurgaon town in Judge's Court area, broke down yesterday. The matter came as a shock to locals, especially cultural activists, as the spot also served as the venue of the morning festivities on Pehela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla new year.