



With large *chars* (landmasses emerging from riverbed) appearing at different places, the Teesta river now sees only lean flows. The photo was taken at Dawabari of Hatibandha upazila in Lalmonirhat district a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Ecology, livelihood under threat as Teesta loses flow

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Once mighty Teesta river has turned into a thin flow at the beginning of the dry season, thanks withdrawal to water from upstream in India.

Livelihoods of a large number of boatmen, fishermen and farmers of the river basin villages in the district are under threat due to the situation.

"Now people do not need a boat for crossing the river as they can do it on foot. I have not earned any money from plying my boat for the last two weeks," said Boatman Nazrul Islam, 55, of Parulia Chat in Hatibandha upazila of the district.

Boatmen at 35 ghats are facing the same problem, he said.

Fisherman Naresh Chandra Das, 50, of Daspara village in Aditmari upazila said they cannot catch fish due to lack of water flow in the

Teesta river. "At least 3,000 fishermen at 25 villages in the district have been facing problems catching fish, so many of them are doing other work to support their families," he added.

"We walk across the river as it is only knee-deep," said Mofazzal Hossain, 56, a farmer at Sholmarchi in Kaliganj upazila. "It pains us to see the Teesta in this condition," he added, demanding immediate implementation of a deal for water sharing.

Farmer Nabir Rahman, 68, of Char Kalmati in Lalmonirhat Sadar said, "As underground water is falling sharply due to the lack of water from upstream, we cannot produce crops in the river basin areas."

Executive Engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) in Dalia Mahbubur Rahman said Bangladesh and India were sched-

uled to sign Teesta water sharing agreement in Dhaka during the visit of former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2011, but no result has been seen yet. The Joint River Commission (JRC) meeting scheduled for June 2013 was postponed at the eleventh hour as the Indian water resources minister expressed his inability to attend it.

No JRC meeting took place since 2010, although it has to meet at least twice a year to resolve issues relating to common rivers, Mahbubur said, adding that Bangladesh is now getting 700-800 cusec water against 4,000-5,000 cusec water at Teesta Barrage point at Dalia, but it will fall drastically from January to March.

Farmers in the country's northern districts depended on Teesta water to irrigate their crop fields during the dry season, but unusu-

ally low flow of the river in Bangladesh due to India's unilateral water withdrawal from upstream badly affects farming and biodiversity in the region, said Mamunur Rashid, coordinator (Agriculture and Environment) of RDRS Bangladesh.

"The flow at Teesta barrage point falls drastically from January to May each year due to India's unilateral water withdrawal from upstream in the absence of a sharing agreement. The situation affects the livelihoods of millions of people and ecology in the northern districts," said WDB official Mahbubur Rahman.

Bangladesh needs an immediate solution to the Teesta water sharing issue to meet its irrigation needs, otherwise Lalmonirhat and other districts in the north will face desertification, he added.

Sharmin, now a crusader against child marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jhalakathi

With a story of struggle behind her, tenth grader Sharmin Aktar with her outstanding courage has become a symbol of protest against early marriage.

Sharmin became a popular face, after The Daily Star published a story on her fight against child marriage on August 18 in 2015.

Later, following another story by 'BBC Bangla' she was selected as 'Swarnakishori' and awarded by 'Swarnakishori Foundation.'

Recently, with the help of local administration and journalists, Sharmin saved three schoolgirls from the curse of early marriage, said Kawsar Hossain, district correspondent of a private television channel.

Inspired by Sharmin's boldness, Sultana Parvin, an SSC examinee in Rajapur upazila, lodged a case with Rajapur Police Station against her mother for attempting to marry her off at an early age, said Sheikh Munirul Gias, officer-in-charge of the PS.

"Sharmin has become an icon and model of protest against child marriage," said Farjana Brownia, CEO of

'Swarnakishori Foundation'.

Popular Bangla daily 'Prothom Alo' recently made a video documentary on Sharmin titled 'Captain and Heroes' in which Bangladesh cricket team captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza shared her heroic story with all, said KM Jasim Uddin, staff reporter of the daily.

Sharmin, an SSC examinee, was forcibly married off with a local youth last year and confined

at her parents' house for nearly two months when she was a student of Class IX at Rajapur Pilot Girls' High School.

Soon after getting released from confinement, she filed a case with Rajapur Police Station against her mother and husband on August 16, 2015.

"I want to work and stand beside the victims of early marriage or any other repression against women," Sharmin said.



Sharmin Aktar, flanked by national cricket team captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, at a function organised by the daily Prothom Alo at Westin Hotel in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: STAR

TONMOY MURDER

Fellows demand justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Students of Mymensingh City Collegiate School staged a demonstration in the town yesterday demanding arrest of all the killers of fellow Ishfaq Ahmed Tonmoy.

They also brought out a protest procession that paraded the main road of the district headquarters.

Speakers at the rally urged the local administration to bring all the killers to book as early as possible and demanded capital punishment to them.

Earlier, Tonmoy, 15, son of Farid Ahmed of Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur, who lived

with his mother at Naumohol of the town, was stabbed to death by some of his friends in Ram Babu Road area on December 23.

Some of Tonmoy's friends led by Farabi and Sagor pressed him to give his new mobile set, which he did not. Angered by this, they stabbed Tonmoy following a scuffle.

Critically injured Tonmoy, an SSC examinee, later died at a hospital.

Following a case filed by the deceased's father with Kotwali Police Station, police arrested prime accused Mehdi Hasan Sagor, 21, and Ruhan Islam Riad, 20, on Monday for their alleged involvement in the murder. They were later sent to jail by a court.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ সরকারি কর্ম কমিশন সচিবালয়
আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত প্রত্নতাত্ত্বিক/ব্যবসায়ী/প্রতিষ্ঠান/ডিলার/স্থানীয় সাধারণ সরবরাহকারীদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ সরকারি কর্ম কমিশন সচিবালয়ের প্রাধিকার প্রাণ তৃতীয় ও চতুর্থ শ্রেণির কর্মচারীদের সাজ-পোশাক সরবরাহের জন্য দরপত্র আবাবন করা হয়েছে। এ সংক্রান্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ সরকারি কর্ম কমিশন সচিবালয়ের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bpsc.gov.bd) প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে। দরপত্র সিডিউলে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস কক্ষে আগামী ০৩-০১-২০১৭খ। তারিখ পর্যন্ত পাওয়া যাবে।

আকরোজা তানজিন

সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন-৫)

Newly-wed 'killed', husband arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man who was arrested for allegedly killing his newly-wed wife at Hossainpur village in Ishwarganj upazila of the district on Wednesday, was produced before a Mymensingh court yesterday, which sent him to jail.

The arrestee, Rakib Mondol, 21, was produced before the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Mymensingh that sent him to jail, said Md Badrul Alam Khan, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ishwarganj Police Station.

The victim was Shimu Akther, 19, daughter of Mustafizur Rahman of the village.

Quoting family sources and locals, the OC said, following a love affair, Shimu got married to Rakib, son of Mustafa Mondol of the village around 40 days ago.

Since the marriage, Rakib, an unemployed youth, used to demand dowry from Shimu's parents. There had been altercations over the issue between the couple as Shimu refused to ask her parents for money, the OC said quoting Shimu's father.

On Wednesday, Rakib took Shimu to Ishwarganj Upazila Health Complex in a critical condition, and she died there around 4:00am, police said.

No injury mark was found on the body, the OC added.

On information, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police arrested Rakib for his alleged involvement in Shimu's death.

Earlier on Wednesday, the victim's father lodged a murder case against three people, including Rakib and his father Mustafa Mondol. It was alleged in the case statement that Shimu was strangled, the OC added.

The other accused are still at large. Police drives are on to arrest them, the OC said.

জিডি-২৬৩৬

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SL	Designation	Vacancy	Education Qualification & Working Experience	Salary & Benefits
1	G.M (OPS)	1	B.Sc. in Engr./MBA /Masters with 20 years practical experience in Knit Garments Division including 3 years as GM-Operation	Negotiable
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4	AGM/Manager - Production	4	B.Sc. in Engr.(TEXTILE)/MBA/Masters in any discipline with 15 years practical experience in Knit Garments Division including 5 years as Manager -Production	Negotiable
5	AGM/Manager - Cutting	2	B.Sc. in Engr.(TEXTILE)/MBA/Masters in any discipline with 15 years practical experience in Knit Garments Division including 5 years as Cutting Manager	Negotiable
6	AGM/Manager -Finishing	2	B.Sc. in Engr.(TEXTILE)/MBA/Masters in any discipline with 15 years practical experience in Knit Garments Division including 5 years as Finishing Manager	Negotiable
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12	Cutting In-Charge	4	Graduate/HSC with 10 years practical experience in Knit Garments Division including 4 years as Floor In-charge -Cutting	Negotiable
13	Finishing In-Charge	4	Graduate/HSC with 10 years practical experience in Knit Garments Division including 4 years as Floor In-charge -Finishing	Negotiable

Apply Instruction:

If you think you meet our desire requirements as a candidate please send your update resume with 2 copy color PP size photograph and all academic & working experience certificates with a cover letter to the following address within 7th January 2017.

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