

Girl dies from treatment by fake doctor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A 14-year-old schoolgirl died on Wednesday due to complications caused by treatment allegedly by a fake doctor of a private clinic in Nachole upazila of the district on Monday. The deceased, Nahida Khatun, daughter of Nasir Uddin of Baipur village in the upazila, was a Class VII student at a local high school.

Following a case filed by the victim's father on Wednesday night, police yesterday arrested alleged fake doctor Mahfuzur Rahman, 28, son of Abu Bakar Siddique of Jagadishpur village under Badalgachhi upazila in Naogaon, from Janani Clinic in Nachole Bus Stand area yesterday noon, Officer-in-Charge Anwar Hossain of Nachole Police Station said.

Police said Mahfuzur carried out an emergency operation on Nahida after she was admitted to Janani Clinic in Nachole Bus Stand area on Monday night with severe lower abdominal pain.

As her condition deteriorated, Mahfuzur later referred Nahida to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

She died at the hospital while undergoing treatment there.

Police said Mahfuzur have been treating people for the last couple of months posing himself as a doctor of the clinic.

In primary interrogation, Mahfuz confessed that he did not obtain any medical college degree, the OC added.



The under-construction embankment in Khaskaunia of Chowhali upazila in Sirajganj is devoured by the Jamuna river as the floodwater recedes. Right, people of the village on the bank, as families pack up their belonging, load them on a boat, and move to safer places.

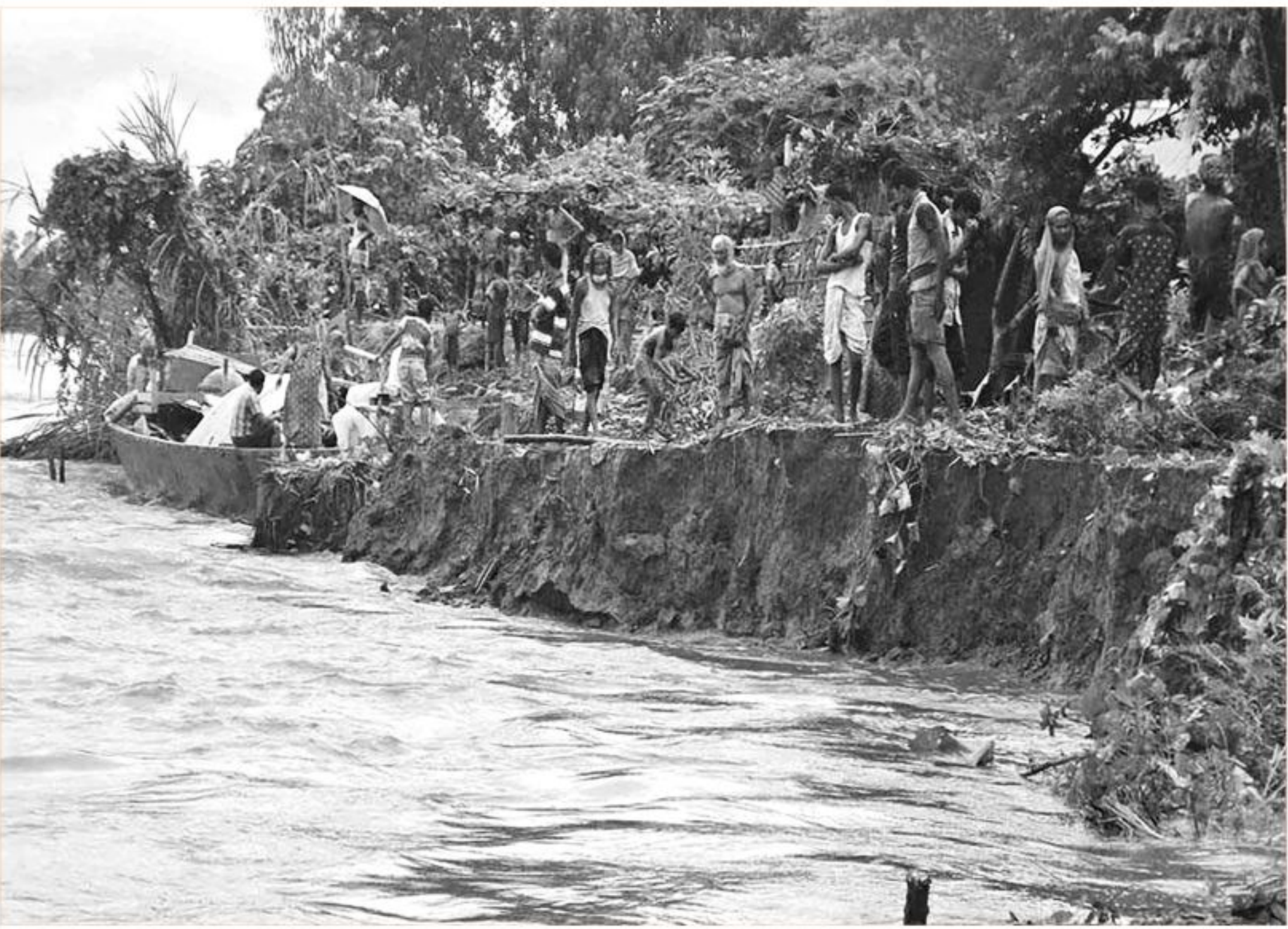


PHOTO: STAR

Erosion worsens as floodwater recedes

Under-construction embankment collapses in Sirajganj, 90 families made homeless in Chapainawabganj

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Receding water of the Jamuna river has raised the threat of further erosion at Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj as the under-construction embankment has collapsed in some places, while over 90 families in Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj have become homeless due to erosion by the Padma river in the last three years.

A total of 30 metres of the embankment at Khaskaunia point of Chowhali upazila were washed away on Wednesday. This is the seventh incident of erosion in the last couple of months, with one spot being eroded thrice, vil-

lagers said.

Sirajganj Zila Parishad Member Md Rafikul Islam, alias Gani Molla, said at least 50 metres of Khaskaunia village were eroded in the last two days as the water receded.

"Concrete blocks were washed away from the embankment and the entire area went into the Jamuna. We informed the Water Development Board (WDB) about the matter, but they have not taken any action," Gani Molla, also former chairman of the Khaskaunia Union Parishad, said.

"The under-construction embankment is being affected due to the poor construction work. If the embankment is

eroded, Chowhali upazila will be washed away by the Jamuna," said Md Rezaul Haque, a resident of the area.

Tangail WDB Executive Engineer (EE) Md Shahjahan Siraj said construction of the seven-kilometre-long embankment from Nagarpur upazila of Tangail to Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj at a cost of Tk 109 crore started in November 2014, and is likely to be finished by April 2018.

"We will dump sand bags to prevent erosion, and permanent steps will be taken after getting recommendations from a technical team of experts," Shahjahan said, adding that WDB has formed a team of experts to make

recommendations after visiting the affected areas.

Meanwhile, over 90 families at Roadpara village in Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj have become homeless due to erosion by the Padma river in the last three years.

Locals said farmlands, bamboo clusters and mango orchards at Roadpara, Chakpara, Mal Bagdanga, Fatapara, Sonapotti, Kairapara and Galdubi villages under Char Bagdanga union went into the Padma during the last two weeks.

Several hundred structures and establishments, including the office of the union parishad, a madrasa, a mosque and a primary school, are facing the threat

of erosion.

"Severe erosion has recently forced us to move to a safer place. As I have no land, I took a piece of land on lease from a man. I am now making a tin-shed house for my family," said Ataur Rahman, a resident of Roadpara village.

Like him, many poor people are leasing land from villagers and making tin-sheds for their families.

An elderly man, Ainal Haque of Malbagdanga village, said Water Development Board (WDB) did not take any steps to stop erosion.

Charbagdanga Union Parishad Chairman Shahid Rana Tipu urged the authorities con-

cerned to take steps immediately to protect thousands of people and their properties, including vast areas of cropland and a good number of establishments, from erosion.

Executive Engineer of Chapainawabganj WDB Syed Shahidul Alam said at least 2,200 metres of the banks at different villages of Char Bagdanga union are facing erosion.

They have taken up a project of Tk 104 crore to protect the union from erosion and the work will start this fiscal year, he added.

Our correspondents in Sirajganj and Chapainawabganj contributed to this story.

Faridpur's 'food minister'

Lal Mia keeps office-goers well-fed

SUZIT KUMAR DAS with ANDREW EAGLE

Duty starts at 9:00am Every weekday, through scorching summer heat, drenching rain or bitter cold, Lal Mia, 55, from Munshi Bazar in Faridpur sets off with his rickshaw van. He reaches six villages across Kojuri union by habit; to return to Faridpur town by 10:30 a.m. Lal Mia has been delivering hot lunches to office-goers for eighteen years. What began as a simple job has transformed into a labour of love.

"My job is about responsibility more than money," Lal Mia says. "My customers are like my children. I could not enjoy any job apart from this one. Delivering lunches is my passion."

Lal Mia's customers, who call him the 'Food Minister,' a moniker he likes, are just as loyal. "He brings my food on time even in the roughest weather," says Likhon Kumar Day, who does administrative work in the town's Chawkbazar. "Lal Mia is very reliable."

"He has been carrying my food for a decade and he's very punctual," says Alok Shorma, who



works at a store in Niltoli in the town. "I can only eat homemade food because of him; without him my diet would be unhealthy. He's a very hardworking person."

Jeweller Gowrango Kormokar who is also based in Niltoli is another satisfied customer. "I first asked him to bring food from my home because it wasn't possible to close the shop and go there for lunch. He's a good man; he calls us if ever he is ill to say that he won't be able to come."

Lal Mia carries around 45 tiffin lunches per day. "I have good relations with their family mem-

bers also, from whom I collect the food," says Lal Mia, who lives with his wife, three daughters and a son.

Of an afternoon, with all tiffins delivered, Lal Mia's work is not done. He goes to the Sonali Bank corner area of the town to collect fresh water for his customers, before returning to each office to take the empty tiffin boxes. By evening he has retraced his journey through the villages delivering each tiffin box to its rightful home. Finally his duty is done, ready to be repeated again on the following day.

Sonjita cries for justice, safety

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

"They will not let me live. Even after getting evidence, the police are not doing anything. Please save me," Sonjita Kar, victim of torture by her husband and in-laws, told the journalists at Manikganj Press Club on Wednesday, after her release from Shivalaya Upazila Health Complex.

Sonjita, daughter of Subol Kar of Krishnapur village under Teota union of Shivalaya upazila in Manikganj, is a first year student of Bachelor of Business Studies in Government Devendra College.

Accompanying her brother Dipankar, she came to Manikganj Press Club on Wednesday noon. Her body bore marks of torture and she was shivering in pain.

"Following a love affair, I married neighbour Subrata Mandal on June 2 in 2015 before the court. After a few days, we got married socially with the consent of the two families. My father gave cash and gold ornaments worth about Tk 6 lakh to Subrata as dowry," said Sonjita.

"Subrata asked me to get more money from my father for doing business. As I did not agree, he started torturing me and his mother, father, brother and sister joined. They threw me out of the house after beating me on October 14 in 2016.

On December 3, Sonjita filed a case against her husband Subrata Mandal,



Sonjita Kar

father-in-law Jiban Chandra Mandal, mother-in-law Kiran Rani Mandal, brother-in-law Amrita Chandra Mandal, and sister-in-law Swapna Mandal before the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Manikganj.

"Subrata appeared before the court

that sent him to the jail. After release from jail, Subrata threatened me and my family members to withdraw the case.

"On July 15, Subrata took me to his home and he, his mother and sister beat me with sticks. Hearing my scream, locals came to rescue me," she said.

"A teenager took video footage of this torture on his mobile but Shibalaya police did not agree to take the case even after showing of the 15-minute video," she alleged.

Sonjita's brother Dipankar alleged that some villagers misled the police after taking money from Subrata.

As this correspondent called Subrata's cell phone, his sister Swapna Mandal received the call but she did not agree to hand over the phone to Subrata.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge of Shibalaya Police Station Monirul Islam said, "There is no validity of marriage of Subrata and Sonjita. So the dowry issue is not right. The case was not taken as the matter of dowry was added with the complaint. Action will be taken against the accused if a complaint of torture is filed."

AKM Nurul Huda Rubel, special public prosecutor of Manikganj Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, said police should receive the complaint and take necessary steps, especially if there is evidence of genuineness of the video.

Six get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A court here yesterday sentenced six people to life imprisonment for killing a man allegedly over a land dispute in 2012.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Shariful Islam also fined the convicts Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer one month more in prison.

The lifers are Mokhesur Rahman, Ariful Islam, Siddique Mia, Alamgir Hossain, Abdul Jalil and Sikandar Ali. They all hail from Mamudpur village in Palashbari upazila.

The court also acquitted six others.

According to the case statement, Mokhesur and his cohorts hacked one Zillur Rahman on February 5 in 2012.

Zillur died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital the same night.

Injured elephant still lying

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

An elephant, badly injured while getting down from a truck on July 14 night, is still lying in a field at Ishobpur beside Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar.

The accident occurred due to alleged negligence of the men of the circus party that had rented it for a show.

"We are trying to treat the elephant with necessary medicines. But it will take time to recover," Dr Md Ariful Islam, veterinary surgeon of Srimangal upazila livestock department.

"We have limitation as there is no X-ray facility for animals in Srimangal livestock department and Lawacherra Wildlife Rescue Centre.

"If X-rays could be done, it would help to properly identify the problem and provide the required treatment," he said.

Sirajul Islam, owner of the elephant, said he rents the animal to circus parties in different areas.

"A circus group took this elephant named Rajlakkhi on a truck and brought it to Srimangal from Brahmanbaria after a show on July 14 night.

"As it was getting down from the truck at Isobpur, the vehicle started before the elephant could land its four legs on the ground. The elephant suddenly fell down and its right leg and waist got badly injured.

"After the incident, the circus group

members fled from the spot and their mobiles remained switched off," he added.

Visiting the spot yesterday, this correspondent found the injured elephant trying to move but it was too weak to get up.

The 35-year-old elephant weighing three tonnes is showing a little improvement as doctors are applying allopathic medicines along with herbal medicines, Sirajul Islam said.

Experienced mahouts Abbas Miah and Khurshed Mia said they are hopeful of its recovery as its movement increased yesterday.

"We are trying our best to treat the elephant," said Tabibur Rahman, assistant conservator of forest of Wildlife Management and Nature Preservation Department.

Tofazzal Sohel, central committee member of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said Lawacherra Wildlife Rescue Centre in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila, the only wildlife treatment centre in the region, is running without any veterinary surgeon, nurses and adequate equipment to give ordinary treatment to injured animals, let alone perform critical surgeries.

Mihir Kumar Doe, divisional forest officer of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department, said he has written to the higher authorities to appoint required manpower at the rescue centre immediately.



Injured elephant Rajlakkhi, undergoing treatment while lying on the ground at Ishobpur in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar, sees only a little improvement during the last few days as the local livestock department office lacks necessary equipment for treatment of injured animals.

PHOTO: STAR