



The health centre at Ujaldanga in Fazlupur union of Fulchhari upazila under Gaibandha gets devoured by the Jamuna river.

PHOTO: M REZAUL HOQUE

Jamuna eats up health centre

The river erosion makes 55 families homeless, devours croplands in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A health centre at Ujaldanga in Fulchhari upazila has been completely eroded by the surging water of the Jamuna river, and 55 families have lost their homesteads and croplands.

Ujaldanga health centre went into the river on August 17 as the rapacious river started devastation in the areas for the last few days, and the health centre was washed away despite attempts to save the building from the fury of erosion.

With the loss of the centre, people of Fazlupur union have remained deprived of health services and they have to go to Fulchhari Upazila Health Complex by crossing the river.

Nazrul Islam, assistant engineer of Gaibandha civil surgeon's office, said the community health centre was built in 2010 with a fund of Tk 12 lakh, adding that the centre building had been facing erosion threat from three weeks back.

Prior to setting up of the health centre, people had to go to the upazila health com-

plex on foot, crossing the Jamuna by country boats, which took a lot of time.

Omar Ali Mandol, a farmer of remote char land Kauyabandha in Fazlupur union, said the people of the union got health services since the setting up of Ujaldanga community health centre but they are now deprived of the service with the erosion of the centre.

Housewife Fatema Begum of Ujaldanga said the people, especially women and children, got health services at the clinic free of cost, but now they will not get such service at their doorsteps.

Fazlupur Union Parishad Chairman Abu Hanif Pramanik said erosion has meanwhile devoured homesteads of 55 families during the last three weeks. He requested the authorities to set up a temporary health camp at Ujaldanga.

The department sold the building on auction in Gobindaganj, but the bidder, after visiting the spot, did not deposit the bid money, as the building was on the verge of collapse into the river.

The centre was devoured totally by the river on August 17, he added.

Palli Bidyut GM lands in jail

ACC inquiry found him possessing Tk 22.88 lakh black money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A court here yesterday sent a general manager of Natore Palli Bidyut Samity (Rural Electrification Board -- REB) to jail in a case filed on charge of possessing Tk 22.88 lakh black money.

The accused, Nitai Kumar Sarkar, 56, general manager of REB-2, Natore, also former general manager of REB, Pabna-2, was sent to jail directly from the court room as his bail prayer was rejected, court sources said.

Senior Special Judge in Pabna Md Nuruzzaman ordered sending him to jail in a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on charge of possessing black money.

"Following the specific allegation of acquiring black money, Anti-Corruption Commission in Pabna started inquiry against Nitai Kumar Sarkar when he was general manager of REB, Pabna-2, and found him in possession of Tk 22,88,086 black money for which he failed to show the source of income," said Abu Bakar Siddique, deputy director (DD) of ACC, Pabna.

The official filed a case with Pabna Police Station on August 23 in 2017 accusing Nitai of possessing black money.

"Nitai appeared before the Pabna Senior Special Judge's Court today [Sunday] and sought bail. Senior Special Judge Md Nuruzzaman rejected his bail prayer and sent him to jail from the court room," the ACC DD said.

Nitai Kumar Sarkar is also accused in a case for loan scam earlier filed by the ACC while another corruption allegation against him is under investigation by the commission, ACC sources said.

Suspected thief burnt to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A suspected thief was burnt to death likely from a short circuit in a grocery store on Rajganj College Road in Manirampur upazila under Jessore early yesterday.

"We went to the spot after being informed of the fire at 3:00am. After one and a half hours, the fire came under control. Later, charred body of a person was found inside a shop," said Monirampur Fire Service and Civil Defence Station Officer-in-Charge Salaududdin Mia.

"It seems the man entered the shop to steal and as he tried to switch on the light there was an electric short circuit that caused the fire. Firefighter Joynal Abedin got burn injury while dousing the fire," he said.

The grocery owner Zainal Abedin said he closed the shop at 10:30pm. At three o'clock in the night, people started a hue and cry as four or five shops caught fire.

Abducted tenth grader yet to be rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A schoolgirl has not been rescued even one month into her abduction in Hatibandha upazila under the district while the relatives and cohorts of the abductor are giving threat to withdraw the case.

The tenth grader Hindu girl was abducted on July 28 at Gaddimari village by auto-rickshaw driver Abdul Khaleque of the same village when she was going to school, said Sub-Inspector (SI) Afwazul Islam, also investigation officer of the case.

The victim's father said, "The relatives and cohorts of Khaleque are giving threat over cellphone to withdraw the case while police tell us that they are trying to rescue our daughter and arrest the culprits, without any results." "We don't know where and how our daughter is," he said, expressing concern about his girl.

"Our daughter was very much disturbed as she was being stalked by the main culprit on way to school," the father said, adding that the OC of Hatibandha Police Station is not serious about rescuing the girl and none was arrested so far in this regard.

SI Afwazul said the victim, a student of local Lokman Hossain High School, was abducted by Abdul Khaleque, 22. The girl's father filed a case with Hatibandha Police Station on August 7 accusing Khaleque and his seven cohorts in this regard, he added.

He said police are trying to rescue the victim and arrest the culprits.

OC Omar Farooque said police drive continued to arrest the culprits.

120 ducks killed by poison traps

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Around 120 reared ducks died, falling prey to 'poison traps' set allegedly by a rival of the birds' owner at a paddy field in Dosdighi area under Barlekha upazila of the district on Saturday evening.

While walking in the field, the ducks died after taking food mixed with poison, said Rahmat Ali, owner of the ducks.

"A neighbour has killed the ducks to cause harm to me due to previous enmity. Three years ago he killed my 300 ducks in the same way," he said.

"How will I continue duck rearing business if such incidents occur repeatedly?" said a lamenting Rahmat.

Confirming the incident, Deb Dulal Dhar, office-in-charge (investigation) of Barlekha Police Station, said they will take action after investigation.

Rape of 2 Marma girls not stray incident in CHT

Speakers tell Khagrachhari rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Speakers at a human chain programme yesterday said the recent incident of rape of two Marma girls was not a stray incident but often occurs in the hill areas.

They said this during a human chain programme, organised by Tripura Students' Forum, in front of Khagrachhari District and Sessions Judge's Court in the town, protesting the rape of the two indigenous teenage girls in Lama upazila of Bandarban on August 22.

Representatives of different social and cultural organisations participated in the rally and expressed their solidarity.

Due to absence of proper justice such incidents have increased nowadays, speakers at the rally said.

They also demanded immediate arrest of the culprits and steps for ensuring their exemplary punishment.

Among others, Debashish Tripura and Dohan Bikash Tripura of Tripura Students' Forum, Haripada Tripura, organising secretary of Tripura Kalyan Sangsad, central committee, spoke on the occasion.

On August 22, two Marma girls were raped allegedly by two members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in a remote area in Lama upazila of Bandarban.

In a case filed on August 24 with Lama Police Station, the girls said they were raped by two BGB jawans in a bush nearby their village while another jawan allegedly stood guard.

Move to cut road crashes

Roads and Highways Department straightens 17 risky turns on Patuakhali-Kuakata road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is straightening 17 risky turns on the 40-km road to reduce road crashes from Amtali to Kuakata in the district.

Accidents have been taking place regularly due to these turns on Patuakhali-Kuakata road.

Cautionary signboards will also be set up on both sides of these turns to encourage drivers to ply their vehicles safely and avoid accidents.

Amtali Upazila Health Officer Dr Shankar said at least 20 people were killed from January to July and 520 were injured during the period from January to April this year, while at least 25 were killed and 1,266 injured in 2017.

The identified 17 risky spots are: two each at Churikata point, Manikjhuri, Khuriar Kheyaghat, and one each at Khaliyan, Bandar

Primary School, Banda Bazar, Bandra sluice gates, Shakharia High School, Shakharia brickfield, Kwabunia, Kukua, Daktarbari, Mohishkata Bazar and Ghotkhali, said district RHD Executive Engineer Mir Nizam Uddin.

He said they have identified these risky turns and have taken up a Tk 3.89 crore project to straighten those, adding that the work has already started.

"We will set up cautionary signboards on both sides of these turns to make drivers aware and drive their vehicles safely," he said.

The work will be completed by this year, he hoped.

Md Rafiqul Islam, a bus driver on Patuakhali-Kuakata road, said it is a very good step.

Shamsul Alam, a local of Khuriar Kheyaghat area, said there are very risky turns but there are no cautionary signboards at all. Road accidents

often take place as no vehicle from the opposite side can be seen, he said.

The portion is the most accident-prone area and authorities should set up signboards with symbols of bridges, schools-colleges, culverts, U-turns, speed-breakers, and right or left turns, he said.

Patuakhali Bus Owners' Association President Md Reaz Uddin Mridha said RHD's step is laudable and he hoped that it will help reduce road accidents.

The authorities should ban all three-wheelers, which are a major cause of road accidents on the highways, as the drivers do not know or do not follow traffic regulations, he added.

At least eight people, including women and children, were killed and more than three injured in a road accident at Manikjhuri point under Amtali upazila on July 26 this year when a bus and three-wheeler collided head-on.

75-year-old 'rapes' child

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A 75-year-old shopkeeper raped a six-year-old girl at Khazanagar in Nabinagar municipality on Friday.

Obaidul Haque, 75, of Krishnanagar village, fled after the incident, but police detained two locals for interrogation.

The victim's mother filed a case with Nabinagar Police Station, accusing Obaidul.

She said her daughter went to Beauty Departmental Store for purchasing chocolate. Obaidul lured the girl to a small room behind the shop where he raped her.

The nearby people rescued the girl and admitted her to Nabinagar Upazila Health Complex.

Woman loses leg under train wheels

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A middle-aged woman lost one of her legs yesterday as an intercity train ran her over while she was trying to get down at Akkelpur Railway Station in Joypurhat.

The victim, Shefali Rani, 48, is a resident of Aralkhanta village in Naogaon's Patnitola upazila.

Stationmaster Khadiza Begum said Shefali lost her leg and injured the other when she accidentally slipped under the wheel of Titumir Express from Rajshahi.



An Indian kid ties a Rakhi string on the wrist of a Border Guard Bangladesh man yesterday at Hili border in Dinajpur's Hakimpur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Friendship ties

BGB,BSF celebrate Rakhi Bandhan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Border guards of India and Bangladesh tied Rakhi -- a thread symbolising bond between a brother and a sister -- at Hili border in Hakimpur upazila yesterday to strengthen the relationship between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

In Hindu tradition, Rakhi Bandhan, also known as 'Raksha Bandhan', is widely celebrated in India every year.

Marking the festival, BSF members celebrated the festival with their Bangladeshi counterparts at zero line of Hili border for an hour from 11:00am.

The colourful event was witnessed by the people of both the countries where students of Basudevpur Primary School of India were also present.

As part of the ritual, female members of

BSF tied Rakhis round the wrists of all the BGB members present there.

The 'Indian sisters' also put a Tilak (mark with colour) on the forehead of their 'Bangladeshi brothers' and prayed for their well being and long life.

Similarly, female BGB members also tied Rakhis round the wrists of their 'Indian brothers' and shared sweetmeats with them.

Jamil Shah, company commandant of BSF Hili camp, and Abdul Malek, company commander of Hili BGB camp were present during the event.

While talking to the reporters, Jamil Shah said in Hindi 'Raksha' means protection while 'Bandhan' means bond.

According to the tradition, sisters tie a thread round their brothers' wrists and pray for their long life and happiness, he added.



One of the 17 risky turnings on the 40 km Patuakhali-Kuakata road in Amtali upazila that are being straightened out to reduce the risk of accidents on the road.

PHOTO: STAR