

# JP leader's market on railway land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The president of Saidpur municipality unit of Jaitiya Party in the district is illegally building a multi-storied market on railway land at the railway market in the municipality, ignoring the written directive of West Zone of Bangladesh Railway (BR) to stop construction.

Although the railway estate department filed two cases to stop the illegal construction and free the land from the influential leader's occupation, police are yet to take any visible step in this regard.

On a visit to the site yesterday, it was found that construction of 40 shops on the first floor was going on in full swing as the market is designed to be built up to the fifth floor.

A few of the completed shops on the ground floor have been sold and the rest have been rented at high rate.

Saidpur Sub-Assistant Settlement Officer (field kanungo) of BR Monwar Hossain said Joinal Abedin took lease of 10 decimals of land from the railway around 30 years ago with lease money of Tk 10,000 to be paid per year for lease renewal.

"But, after taking lease of the land, which is now worth around Tk 10 crore, he neither deposited the lease money nor renewed the lease contract. The lease has already been cancelled automatically, as per railway rules," said Monwar.

"To stop illegal construction by Joinal on

our land, I filed a case against him with Saidpur Police Station on August 14," he added.

Senior Sub-Assistant Engineer Tauhidul Islam of the railway department said he had filed a case on January 11 with the same police station to free the land from Joinal's occupation.

Joinal claimed that he had legally taken lease of the railway land.

"A case is running in the High Court, between the railway and Saidpur municipality over the railway's landed property in the municipality area, and so, I am confused about where to go to regularise the lease.

"I know constructing a market on railway land is illegal, but hundreds of such multistoried buildings are being built elsewhere on railway land in Saidpur. If people behind such construction aren't accused then why should I be?" he said.

"We have filed cases against Joinal but police are still inactive in addressing our complaint. We will soon launch a drive with law enforcement agencies to evict him from our land," said Younus Ali, divisional estate officer of BR in Pakshi under West Zone.

Saidpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shahjahan Pasha said Joinal is an identified land grabber as there are a number of cases against him over land dispute.

"We would like to provide all-out cooperation to the railway authorities if they launch eviction drives," he added.



A local influential leader of Jaitiya Party is illegally building this multi-storied market on railway land at Shahid Zikrul Haque road under Saidpur municipality of Nilphamari.

PHOTO: STAR

## Teesta erosion turns over 400 families homeless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Surging water of the Teesta river engulfed a large number of homesteads, rendering 430 families shelterless within the last two weeks in different char lands of Sundarganj upazila.

Onrush of water from upstream has intensified erosion in Lalchamar, Ujan Bachagari, Badamer char, Charitabari, Belka and char Haripur villages along the Teesta basin, where 430 families shifted to safer places after losing their homesteads and croplands, while over 1,000 families are still under erosion threat.

The erosion victims took shelter on nearby highlands and abandoned dyke, and many have migrated to other char lands.

"We did not know when the Eid

day passed by as we remained busy with shifting our belongings to safer places," said Saider, a farm labourer.

"I spent all the money from my little savings for shifting my belongings to a safer place as my homestead on two decimals of land was eroded away by the surging water overnight," said another labourer Faisal Mia of Badamer char.

"The erosion point was hundred yards from my dwelling home and remained inactive for the last two years. The erosion suddenly turned violent prior to Eid and within three days surging water devoured around 15 homesteads," said Shamsher Ali a small shop-keeper.

Kapasia Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Jalaluddin said erosion by the Teesta began furiously five days before Eid and many of the char

dwellers could not enjoy the festival as they were engaged shifting movable properties to safer places.

Till now, over 250 families in only his union have lost their homesteads, he said.

The UP has submitted a list of erosion victims to Sundarganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Golam Kibria for allocation of relief materials, he added.

"We have distributed two kg rice each among 200 erosion victims at Belka and will provide more relief soon after receiving fresh allocation," the UNO said.

G a i b a n d h a - 1 law maker Barrister Shamim Hyder Patwari visited the erosion affected areas of Chandipur and Kapasia unions and assured the people of all possible help and steps for protection from river erosion.



People of Lalchamar village in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha look at where their homesteads used to be before those were washed away by the Teesta river.

PHOTO: STAR

## Boat capsizes death toll rises to 5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two more bodies were recovered from Chalanbeel yesterday after a tourist boat carrying 22 visitors capsized in the water body under Chatmohar upazila on Friday.

Seventeen visitors managed to swim ashore when the boat sank.

With this, the death toll rose to five, said police.

The deceased were Billal Hossain Goni, scientific officer of regional agriculture research institute in Ishwardi upazila, his wife Momtaz Parvin Sheuly, trader Rafikul Islam Swapan, his daughter Sadia Khatun, and Shahnaz Parvin Parul, a housewife.

Of them, Sheuly, Sadia and Parul were found dead in the beel On Saturday.

## Tidal surge snaps road link in Galachipa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Road communication between Galachipa upazila headquarters, Patuakhali district town and Baufal and Dashmina upazilas has remained snapped since Tuesday evening as the connecting road was destroyed by tidal surge in Kalaraja area under Galachipa upazila.

Tidal water entered the villages through the broken parts and flooded around six villages. Several hundred acres of Aman paddy fields went under water.

Locals said the Galachipa upazila connecting road was built under Upazila Growth Centre Connecting Project implemented by Local Government Engineering Department around 10 years ago, along with a carpeted road from Kharijoma village to Galachipa upazila town.

The road links with Baufal and Dashmina upazilas as well as Patuakhali district town, and several hundred vehicles of different types ply it regularly.

Communication through the road was snapped on Tuesday when about 10 feet of

the road at Kalaraja area collapsed into the nearby Chiknikandi canal due to pressure of tidal surge in the evening

Tidal water entered through the breach and submerged Majhgram, Uttar Pankhali, Dakkhin Pankhali, Kalaraja, Horidevpur and Kachua villages.

Aman paddy fields went under water and at least 800 people of the villages have been marooned by the tidal water, said Rafiqul Islam, a local farmer of Kalaraja village.

They are worried about cultivating Aman paddy and rearing fish in ponds and ditches as those might be washed away, he added.

Fish in ponds and ditches went due to flooding of the water bodies, said another farmer Mosharef Hossain.

If the damaged portion is not repaired soon all Aman paddy land will be flooded and the miseries of local people will know no bounds, he said.

Galachipa Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Tousif Ahmed said they have asked the local union parishad and upazila parishad to repair the damaged parts immediately.

## Another held in Kirtika murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Police on Saturday detained another person from Larma square in Dighinala upazila for his alleged involvement in connection with the case for rape and murder of schoolgirl Kirtika Tripura on July 28.

The arrestee, Birendra Tripura, is a member of Juba Samity, an associate organisation of Jana Sanghati Samity (MN Larma).

Officer-in-Charge of Dighinala Police Station Abdus Samad said Birendra is also an accused in the case for murdering UPDF man Binoy Chakma on February 17.

## RAPE OF CHALLENGED WOMAN ON BUS Driver yet to be held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The driver who allegedly raped a mentally challenged woman on a bus in Bhuapur upazila on Thursday night has not been arrested yet.

"We are trying to arrest driver Alam Khandakar, 45, of Bhuapur," said Sub-Inspector Kabirul Haque of Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station, the investigation officer.

Getting information from Kushtia's Mirpur police, the victim's elder brother and brother-in-law reached the police station on Saturday night.

Later, they met with the victim, who was in safe custody at the district jail, yesterday, said jail Superintendent Manzur Hasan.

Their lawyer said they will submit a prayer to the Judicial Magistrate's Court today for taking the victim under the custody of her brother.

About three weeks before the Eid-ul-Azha, she came to her brother-in-law's house in the capital, her elder brother Helal said.

She went missing a day after the Eid, Helal said.

"We do not know when and how she went to Tangail," Helal said.

Officer-in-Charge of Mirpur Police Station in Kushtia informed us about the incident on Saturday afternoon. He have come to take our sister home," he said.

"We want immediate arrest and capital punishment of the culprits," he added.

Meanwhile, a Tangail court on Saturday ordered sending of the victim to a government shelter home in Gazipur.

## TORTURE ON FISHERMEN Criminals won't be spared

Says Pekua OC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

None involved in the torture inflicted on the seven fishermen belonging to minority community will be spared, Pekua Police Station Officer-in-Charge Zahirul Islam Khan said, referring to the August 24 incident in coastal upazila Pekua under the district.

"The three people arrested in connection with the incident were sent to jail through a court. The video of the torture was spread in the internet. Police are trying to arrest the perpetrators."

On Tuesday, torture victim Gopal Sarder, hailing from Jalia Para in Dhalghat union of Patia upazila in Chittagong, filed a case with Pekua Police Station against Nurul Absar alias Bodu Member of Bodiuddin Para area in Rajakhali union of the upazila, the main accused, Nurul Alam alias Dakat Alam of the same area, and 20 to 25 unidentified people.

Earlier on Monday night, police arrested three people in connection with the incident from different areas of Rajakhali.

"Bodu Member hired 12 fishermen including me for catching fish on August 24 and took us to Bodiuddin Para in Rajakhali union," Gopal Sarder said in his case statement.

"When we were returning after catching fish, upon orders of Bodu Member, I and six other fishermen were detained and tortured. Our heads were shaven and we were made to go round different areas of the union," he said.

## JOURNALIST NODI MURDER

## Cops pick up Abul's wife, daughter for interrogation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Law enforcers have picked up wife and daughter of detained industrialist Abul Hossain, former father-in-law of slain journalist Suborna Nodi, for interrogation in connection with the murder case.

Detective Branch (DB) of police picked up Taslima Begum, wife of Abul Hossain, and her daughter Shapla Khatun, from their residence at Salgaria of the district town on Saturday evening, said advocate Belal Hossain, counsel of Abul Hossain.

"Taslima and Shapla are not accused in the case statement. Police told us that they are not arrested, just taken for interrogation for the sake of investigation," Belal said.

Criminals hacked Nodi, 30, Pabna corre-

spondent of Ananda TV, to death when she was entering her home in Pabna town around 10:00pm on Tuesday and she died at Pabna Medical College Hospital the same night.

The victim's mother filed a murder case accusing Rajib Hossain, former husband of Nodi, Rajib's father Abul Hossain, and four to five others with Pabna Police Station on Wednesday. The case was handed over to Pabna DB police.

Police arrested Abul the same day and he was taken on three days remand following a court order on Thursday, said Md Monirul Islam, officer in charge (OC) of Pabna DB.

"We have taken wife and daughter of Abul Hossain to DB police station for getting some information, especially about absconding Rajib Hossain, former husband of Suborna Nodi," he said.



The road connecting Galachipa upazila with Patuakhali district town was badly damaged by tidal surge at Kalaraja village under Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR