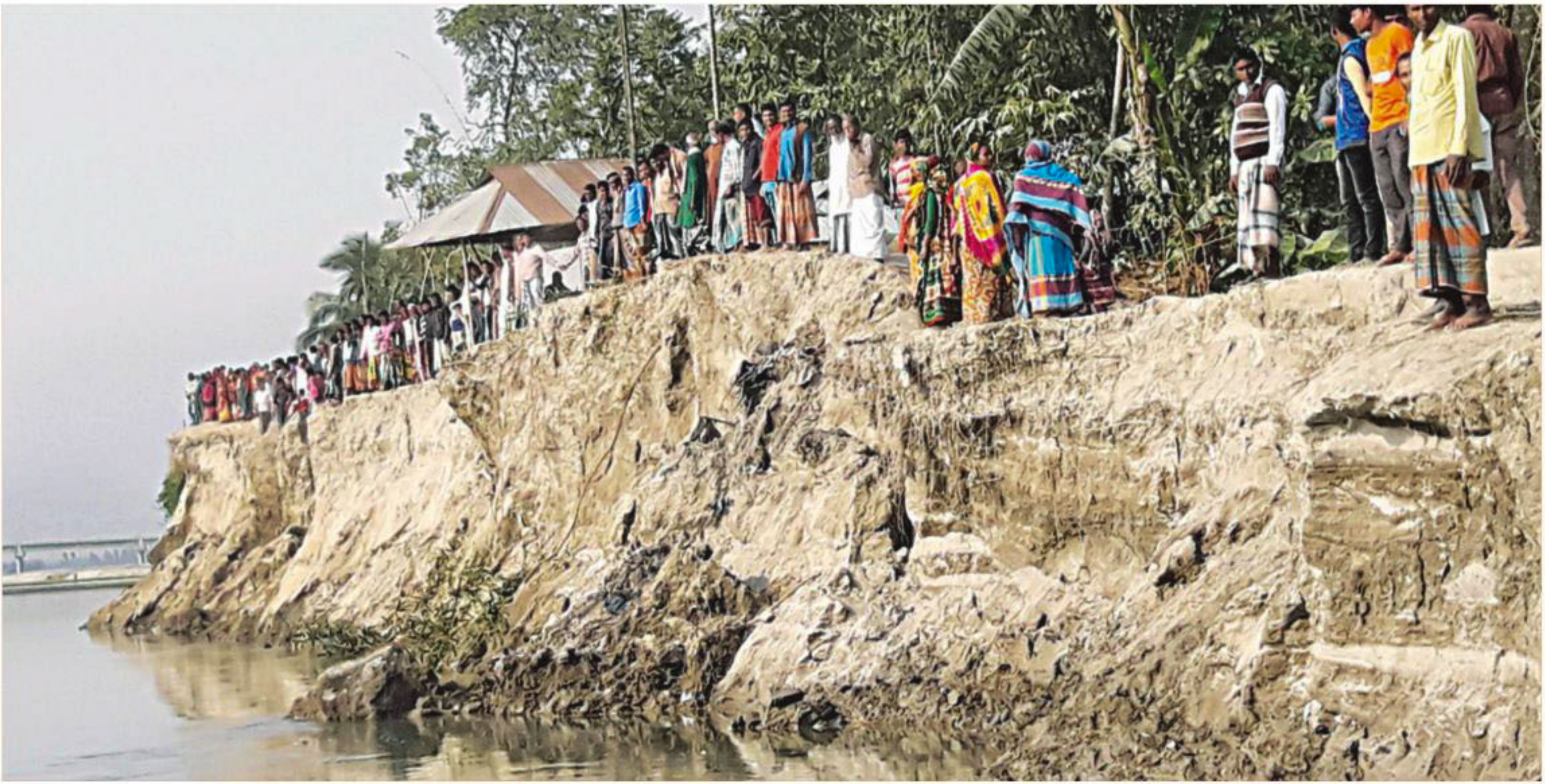


## Faridpur Rab arrests one with 800 bottles of Phensidyl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-8 of Faridpur arrested a youth and recovered 800 bottles of phensidyl from a car carrying him in Madhukhali rail gate area of Madhukhali upazila under the district around 9:00pm on Monday. The arrestee is Md Humayun Kabir, 19, of Sonabaria village under Kalaroa upazila in Satkhira.

Officials of the elite force claimed that Humayun is engaged in Phensidyl trader for quite some time. Talukder Najmus Sakib, Company Commander of Rab-8 in Faridpur, said, "On secret information, a team of Rab-8 conducted a drive in Madhukhali rail gate area and arrested Humayun with 800 bottles of Phensidyl. They also seized the car carrying the contraband." Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Madhukhali Police Station, said Rab filed a case against Humayun with Madhukhali Police Station on Tuesday. "The accused will be produce before a court tomorrow [Wednesday]," he added.



Villagers form a human chain on the bank of Dharla river, demanding steps to stop erosion by the river in Sonaigazi village under Phulbari upazila of Kurigram.

PHOTO: STAR

## Erosion by Dharla turns serious

### Human chain demands steps to check the menace in four villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Erosion by the Dharla river at four villages in two upazilas of Lalmonirhat and Kurigram has turned serious, washing away homesteads and croplands every day.

Affected people formed a human chain on the east side of Sheikh Hasina Dharla Bridge at Sonaigazi village in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram, demanding steps to check the erosion.

The villages are Kharuya and Banshpochai in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, and Sonaigazi and Paschim Dhaniram villages under Phulbari upazila.

Head teacher of Kutibari High School Azgor Ali said at least 100 homesteads and 300 bighas of arable lands have been

devoured by the Dharla river in the last two weeks. "Erosion is devouring homesteads, croplands and orchards, but Water Development Board (WDB) is not taking any step to check it," he said.

Phulbari Degree College Principal (ret.) Professor Aminur Rahman said if the WDB authorities do not take prompt steps to check the erosion, it will pose a serious threat to Sheikh Hasina Dharla Bridge.

Shimulbari Union Parishad woman member Jannati Begum said they have informed the local administration and WDB authorities in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram about the serious erosion. "We urge the authorities to take steps to check the erosion immediately, otherwise we will go on the road for realising our

demand," she said.

"My four bighas of arable land and a bamboo orchard on 20 decimals of land have been eroded and the rest of the croplands are under threat," said Nural Islam, 58, of Kharuya village in Sadar upazila.

Sirazul Islam, 48, of Pashchim Dhaniram village in Phulbari upazila, said he and his four-member family have taken shelter in a relative's house as his homestead with ten decimals of land was devoured by the Dharla.

Lalmonirhat WDB Executive Engineer Abdullah Al-Mamun told this correspondent that the WDB engineer has visited the spots and is preparing a report to submit to the higher authorities concerned, seeking funds for checking the erosion immediately.

## 4 to walk gallows for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Sirajganj court here yesterday sentenced four people to death for killing a woman over dowry in 2001.

The convicts are Subir Kumar Roy, husband of the victim, his brothers Sushil Kumar Roy and Sunil Kumar Roy and uncle Monoranjan Roy. They were tried in absentia.

According to the prosecution, Subir of Mujibroad village in Sadar upazila married Sumi Roy of Tangail town in 1999. After the marriage, Subir and his family members often tortured Sumi for dowry.

The convicts beat Sumi and strangled her following an altercation over the issue on January 12 in 2001.

On January 15 the same year, a case was filed with Sadar Police Station, accusing the four. Police later submitted charge sheet against the convicts.

After examining witnesses and evidence, Judge Fazle Khoda Md Nazir of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal found them guilty and pronounced the verdict.

## 30 hurt over village council election

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 30 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups over upcoming village council election at Noagaon in Baniachong upazila yesterday.

The election schedule is yet to be fixed.

Locals said Komol Uddin Sheikh, incumbent member of the council, has a longstanding conflict with Alamin Mia of the area over nominating the leader of the village council.

Supporters of Komol and Alamin attacked each other with lethal weapons, leaving 30 people from both sides injured.

Of them, two were rushed to a hospital in Sylhet, seven to Habiganj Sadar Hospital while the rest were given first aid.

Komol and Alamin blamed each other for the incident. Informed, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Additional police personnel have been deployed in the area to avert further trouble," said Rashed Mobarak, OC of Baniachong Police Station.

## 'Blue panel' alleges PUST VC's partial role

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Awami League-backed Blue Panel teachers at Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) said Vice Chancellor Dr Rustom Ali is influencing the candidates and general teachers for supporting their rival panel in the university teachers' association election to be held today.

They came up with the allegation at a press conference at Pabna Press Club in the town yesterday.

President aspirant of the Blue Panel Hasibur Rahman alleged that the VC himself called many candidates and the general teachers for supporting the candidates against their panel.

The VC is forcing them to support the panel according to his choice, he said.

Secretary aspirant of the Blue Panel Dr Md Fazlul Haque and incumbent president of the association Awal Kabir Joy, among others, spoke at the conference.

"We are very worried about the partial role of the vice chancellor over holding peaceful election," said Fazlul Haque.

Refuting the allegation false and baseless, the VC said nobody can prove that he forced anybody about the election.

No teacher came to him brining any such allegation till now, he said.

Meanwhile, an official press release issued by the public relation department of PUST said the university has already got the allotment of Tk 480 crore for development work in the university. The VC has taken initiative to ensure peaceful environment for education. So they are trying to tarnish the image of the VC.

## 'JMB man' held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) early yesterday detained a suspected member of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Shibnarayanpur village in Shibganj upazila.

The arrestee, Monirul Islam, 35, is a resident of the village.

A team of Rab-5, acting on a tip that some Islamist militants were conducting a secret meeting at the village, went there and raided 15 to 20 houses between 3:30am to 8:00am, Commanding Officer (CO) of Rab-5 Lt Col Mahbubul Alam said.

"Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the fugitive JMB men fled. The Rab members seized some leaflets and books on jihad and detained Monirul from his house," the CO said.



Journalist Shamim-un-Bashir's house at Narsinghar village in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila lies ravaged as launched brutal attacks on Sunday and again on Monday. Even household items were not spared.

PHOTO: STAR

## CONFLICT OVER FORMING SCHOOL MANAGING COMMITTEE

## Goons ravage house of journalist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

The house of a journalist at Narsinghar village under Natai Dakkhin union in Sadar upazila was ravaged for two consecutive times allegedly by the local union parishad (UP) chairman and his men over previous enmity.

The goons first attacked the house of journalist Shamim-un-Bashir on Sunday evening and then again the following morning, demolishing it to the ground, and looted valuables from there.

Victim Bashir, editor of online portal brahmanbaria24.net, alleged that there had been a feud between him and Natai UP Chairman Nazmul Haque over formation of a school managing committee at the village.

"Over the issue, I had an altercation with the chairman in front of my residence at Moulvipara on Sunday morning. As a sequel, Nazmul, also president of the union unit Awami League, and his men vandalised my Narsinghar village home and looted valuables from the house," Bashir said.

Bashir's younger sister Tahmina Ambia Jyoti said the attackers completely demolished two brick-built rooms of the house, including the boundary wall, to the ground and took away valuables.

Chairman Nazmul said, after being offended by Bashir on Sunday he filed a case with Sadar Model Police Station against him the same day.

After hearing about the incident, a police team visited the area, Officer in Charge of Sadar Model Police Station Selim Uddin said, adding that they will take legal steps if anyone lodges a complaint.



The namaz-e-janaza of former lawmaker and freedom fighter Khandakar Abdur Baten was held at a stadium at Konora village under Nagarpur upazila of Tangail yesterday.

## Tribute paid as ex-MP Baten laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Former lawmaker Khandakar Abdur Baten, also a brave freedom fighter, was laid to rest at his family graveyard at Konora village in Nagarpur upazila yesterday with state honour.

Earlier, his second namaz-e-janaza was held at local Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at the village where several thousand people of all classes joined to pay their last tribute to the war hero.

Among others, lawmakers of Tangail 2, 5, 6, and 8 constituencies -- Tanvir Hasan Chhoto Monir, Sanowar Hossain, Ahsanul Islam Titu and Joaherul Islam, respectively

-- Deputy Commissioner Md Shahidul Islam, Superintendent of Police Sanjit Kumar Roy and Nagarpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Syed Faizul Islam also attended.

Baten passed away at his NAM flat in Dhaka early Monday at the age of 76 after he suffered a cardiac arrest.

Baten was vice-president of Chhatra Sangsad of Sadaat College in Karatia during the '60s and convener of Greater Mymensingh Students' Society during the 1969 mass movement. He was made president of Tangail district unit Chhatra League in 1970.

During the Liberation War in 1971, Baten fought against the Pakistani

forces after forming a group of freedom fighters named Baten Bahini.

After Independence, Baten joined Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and later performed as regional commander of Gonobahini.

He was elected chairman of Nagarpur Upazila Parishad in 1986. Baten later returned to Awami League in 1990.

He took part in the national elections in 1996 and 2001 as Awami League candidate and lost to BNP candidates.

Baten was elected lawmaker from Tangail-6 (Nagarpur-Delduar) constituency in 2008 and 2014 as an independent and Awami League candidate, respectively.

## Two women return after 4 years in Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Two Bangladeshi women returned home through Benapole check-post last night after serving four years in an Indian prison.

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) handed them over to Benapole check-post Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) camp.

The returnees are Fatima Khatun, 24, daughter of Moslem Sarder, and Shilpi Khatun, 18 daughter of Babul Hossain, both hailing from Sadar upazila of Dinajpur.

Shilpi said a gang of human traffickers sent them to Kolkata to give them a good job.

Subeder Monir Hossain of Benapole check-post BGB camp said Kolkata police arrested the women from the city for entering India illegally.

An Indian court sentenced them to four years imprisonment each and sent them to Kolkata Central Jail.

On completion of their jail terms, the Indian government returned the women following an exchange of letters between the home ministries of the two countries.

## Two brick kiln owners fined in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A mobile court in separate drives fined two brick kiln owners for violating environment rules at Shibganj and Bhelajan villages in Sadar upazila in the last two days.

Abdul Aziz, owner of 3-Star Brick Kiln at Shibganj, was fined Tk 2 lakh and Abdus Sobhan, owner of KSB Brick Kiln at Bhelajan village fined Tk 50,000 yesterday and the day before, said Executive Magistrate Tariqul Islam,

who led the court.

The court raided 3-Star Brick Kiln yesterday afternoon and found the kiln was being operated without license and burning wood violating existing brick burning rules.

The court then fined the kiln owner. It also warned the convict not to use fire-wood instead of coal, said the magistrate.

In another drive, the same court on Monday fined brick kiln owner Abdus Sobhan Tk 50,000 for violating existing rules.



A few mango trees, like this one in Puran Bogura area of the district town, are already in full blossom as favourable weather conditions have helped a bit early arrival of flowers in the popular summer fruit trees in the area.

PHOTO: STAR