



Erosion by the Teesta river has taken a serious turn, affecting nearly a four-kilometre stretch of area in Bidyananda union under Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila. The photo taken at Kalirhat a few days ago shows utter vulnerability of the union that lost most of its land to the river during the last 20 years, said Tajjul Islam, chairman of the union parishad.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Madrasa boy beaten dead

The victim in Gaibandha faced wrath after complaining about death threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A madrasa student was beaten to death allegedly after complaining to the mother of a neighbouring youth about death threat by the latter at Kathalbari village in Gobindaganj upazila Sunday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Abdur Rahat Mia, 18, son of Abdur Rahim Mia, and a Dakhil student at Kathalbari Mostafia Senior Alim Madrasa.

Police detained Rubel Mia, 25, brother of main accused Al-Amin, 22, and his mother Dhali Begum, 50, in this connection, while Al-Amin went into hiding.

During a squabble on Saturday afternoon, Al-Amin hit Abdur Rahat with a toy pistol and threatened to kill him, police quoted eyewitnesses as saying.

Abdur Rahat informed his mother of the matter and they went to Al-Amin's house around 5:00pm the next day and complained to Al-Amin's mother Dhali Begum about the death threat.

Hearing the matter, Al-Amin rushed to home and started beating Rahat with a branch of tree. His father, mother and brother also joined the attack.

Rahat died on the spot.

Informed, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and detained Al-Amin's brother Rubel Mia and mother Dhali Begum.

Al-Amin and his father Khaibar Hossain, however, managed to flee after the incident.

"Several injury marks were found in Rahat's body and it was sent to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The victim's father Abdur Rahim filed a case with Gobindaganj Police Station," said AKM Mehdi Hasan, OC of Gobindaganj Police Station.

Owner arrested over rape attempt in clinic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A court in Mymensingh yesterday sent owner of a private clinic, in Brahmapolli area of Mymensingh city, to jail over a rape attempt on a college girl by the clinic manager.

The teenage girl, from an indigenous community, filed a case on Sunday night, accusing Alam Mia, 30, manager of Padma General Hospital and Diagnostic Centre, of trying to rape her on Sunday.

Clinic owner Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Babul, 50, was also made an accused in the case for trying to protect Alam.

Mujibur was arrested the same day and was sent to jail yesterday when police produced him before it.

Police are conducting raids to arrest the prime accused, Alam, said Khondoker Shaker Ahmed, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station.

The girl is now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Citing the case statement, the OC said the girl, whose parents are day labourers, went to the clinic around 4:30pm to meet manager Alam for obtaining information about training courses on nursing at the clinic.

She was accompanied by two of her female classmates, also from the indigenous community.

Alam at one stage sent her classmates to look around the hospital and took the girl inside a room. He then locked the door from inside and made sexual advances to her.

At one point, the girl started crying out for help as Alam tried to rape her. Hearing her cry, her classmates gathered outside the room and they also started screaming.

When clinic staff and others came to her rescue, Alam opened the door and fled the scene.

Once informed, clinic owner Mujibur also arrived at the scene. But, instead of taking action against Alam, Mujibur tried to protect him by playing down his crime, alleged the victim in the case statement.

Police later arrived at the hospital and arrested Mujibur.

The girl's mother said her daughter, eldest among her three children, was trying to provide for their impoverished family by getting in nursing profession.

Rickshaw puller held for killing garment worker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested an indigenous man early morning yesterday in Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur for killing a female garment worker on August 15.

Police arrested rickshaw puller Raju Oro, 40, son of Babu Oro from Chandipur village in the upazila, from his home around 3:00am.

They also found the victim's ID card and backpack from Raju's house, said Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Hakimpur Police Station.

The woman, Sharmin Akter, 22, had been working as a garment worker in Dhaka for the last three years. In early morning on August 15, she was returning home on a bus due to illness.

After getting off the bus at Hilli Bazar, she hired a rickshaw to her home. Soon after reaching a bridge in Boigram village, rickshaw puller Raju forced the woman under the bridge and snatched her belongings including her bag and mobile phone, the OC said.

As the woman resisted and kept screaming for help, Raju strangled her to death and left the spot.

Police recovered her decomposed body next day and later sent it to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for autopsy, the OC also said.

Gerberas bring boon for youth in Fardipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Fardipur

A Gerbera flower garden in Godadhordangi village under Aliabad union of Faridpur Sadar upazila brings bright prospect for Liaquat Hossain.

The twenty-eight-year-old first planted 7,000 seedlings on 60 decimals of his own land by collecting those from India in August 2018.

Upon completing his post-graduation from Kabi Nazrul Government College in Dhaka, he tried to land a decent job for a couple of years, but was unable to do so. It was later that he tried his hand at farming and saw success.

"I experimented with Gerbera farming to make ends meet. It ultimately helped me become self-reliant," said the youth.

"Gerbera farming is quite expensive compared to other crops. I initially invested around Tk 22 lakh to buy fertiliser, medicine, shade cloth, fences and arrange payment for labour."

Each gerbera plant begins to

bloom within three months of being sown and will continue to produce flowers yearlong for about four years.

"I cut an average of 2,000 sticks of flowers twice a week with the help of two or three temporary labourers. I can sell a single stick for Tk 10 to Tk 15," said Liaquat.

"Gerberas are available in white, yellow, orange, red, and pink. While they are not high maintenance plants, I use compost fertiliser, potash and triple super phosphate to tend to the flowers," he added.

The flowers stay fresh for 15 days or so and are sold in markets in Faridpur, Dhaka and Chattogram, where demand is high, he said.

His garden has become quite an attraction as young people of different areas come to see the colourful blooms regularly.

"At the moment, I am not expanding my garden, not until I recover my investment. But if the government can provide loans on easy terms, I can nurture more lands."

Alimuzzaman Rony, 50, of Faridpur town said, "Gerbera farming

is new to our district. I have come here with my family members to have a look at the beautiful garden."

KM Ruble, 45, of Baitul Aman area of Faridpur town, said, "I visited Liaquat's gerbera garden and he has done quite well. Hopefully, it will encourage others in the area to try it out as well."

Kartik Chandra Chakraborty, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Faridpur, said, "A gerbera species from South Africa was first scientifically identified in 1889. Since then gerberas have been catalogued in natural habitats across the tropical regions. The flower has become a regular adornment to household gardens in many parts of the world."

"This is the first time it is being grown in Faridpur; it is grown in a few other places across Bangladesh as well, like Magura and Jashore."

"The flower is fast gaining popularity. Many young farmers in the area come to us for advice on growing it."

Road damaged over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A former vice chairman of Bandarban Sadar upazila dug up bricks from a road that was built recently by Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC) in Lemujiri area of the upazila.

BHDC constructed the road in 2017-18 fiscal year, spending around Tk 20 lakh, said Thowai Chaw Mong Marma, sub-assistant engineer of BHDC.

"Former vice chairman Jamal Chowdhury damaged the road and stole the bricks recently," he said, adding, "We already filed a case with Bandarban Sadar Police Station, accusing the [former] vice chairman."

Bandarban Sadar Police Station confirmed filing of the case.

Asked why Jamal Chowdhury would damage the road that belongs to BHDC, the engineer claimed ignorance and advised this correspondent to contact BHDC Chairman Kwe Shwe Hla for further details.

Despite making repeated calls on the BHDC chairman's cellphone, this correspondent, however, was unable to reach him for his comments over the matter.

Contacted, Jamal Chowdhury said, "It made a mistake by digging the bricks up from the road."

"I donated five decimals of [my] land to BHDC for [building] a

hostel in 2014. But [instead], BHDC grabbed nearly 20 decimals of my land and constructed the hostel in the area for indigenous Kyang students."

"I went to BHDC Chairman Kwe Shwe Hla several times [to discuss] the matter, but he insulted me without paying any compensation [to me]. Moreover, they constructed a road in the hostel area last year, damaging my land," Jamal claimed.

The dormitory is still vacant as the indigenous students are not interested in staying there for its isolated location, said Thowai Chaw, the BHDC engineer.



Dug up bricks are piled up on the sides of the road that was built for a dormitory in Lemujiri area of Bandarban Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



A scene of Liaquat Hossain's Gerbera garden at Godadhordangi village in Aliabad union of Faridpur Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

UP member among 3 sent to jail for kidnapping

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A union parishad (UP) member and two others were sent to jail yesterday by a court for kidnapping a teenage girl and injuring a baby in Bagerhat's Morrelganj upazila.

Police arrested the three -- Saidul Khan, a UP member in Ziudhara union, Saiful Islam Mridha and his father Montu Mridha of Sonatala village -- earlier yesterday in a case filed by the girl's mother.

Morrelganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge KM Azizul Islam said on August 6, Saiful Islam Mridha kidnapped the 16-year-old girl.

On Sunday morning, her family members managed to bring her back home. Later in the afternoon, the UP member and the other two arrestees came to their house for the girl, claiming that she had married Saiful.

Failing to provide any proof of marriage, the three attempted to take away the girl by force. At one stage, Saiful injured a baby in their house by throwing hot water.

INTRA-PARTY CLASH ON AUGUST 15

8 AL men arrested, many go into hiding in Jaldhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A large number of Awami League (AL) leaders and activists in Jaldhaka upazila of Nilphamari went into hiding to avert arrest as police have continued raids to arrest the accused in a case filed for injuring three policemen on National Mourning Day August 15.

In the case filed by Sub Inspector Abdur Rashid on Friday night, 20 named and 150 unnamed people were made accused and police in several raids arrested eight persons as of Sunday night.

On occasion of National Mourning Day on August 15, two factions of AL locked in a clash at Bangabandhu Chattar in Jaldhaka municipality, which left 20 people including three policemen injured.

Of them, a critically injured sub inspector is undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

"Two more cases were also filed on Friday in connection with the clash. Upazila unit AL President Ansar Ali Mintu filed a case accusing 70 party men while the party's municipality unit President Ashraf Hossain filed another case accusing 63 activists," said Mostafizur Rahman, officer in charge (OC) of Jaldhaka Police Station.

Police are conducting raids to arrest accused, he said.

AL's former upazila unit President Abdul Mannan said the clash on August 15 occurred due to show of strength ahead of the forthcoming party council on September 11.