



OLD BRAHMAPUTRA No let-up in river grabbing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Construction of illegal structures by encroaching Old Brahmaputra river and the Town Protection Dam in Mymensingh city has been going on unabated for years.

As such, the number of illegal structures, including houses and shops, keeps going up every year, mostly in the city's Kalibari Puratan Ferry Ghat, Shambhuganj Bridge and Kachhari Ferry Ghat areas, alleged locals.

Walkways on the river embankment at different points have also been blocked by scrap businesses in the same localities, disrupting movement of pedestrians.

"A vested quarter is behind grabbing government land amid a lack of proper monitoring from the authorities concerned," said Advocate Shabbir Ahmed Liton, secretary of Poribesh Rokhha O Unnayan Andolon platform in Mymensingh.

Advocate Md Nazrul Islam Chunnun, convener of Jonouddogh, Mymensingh, a civil society forum, echoed him, urging authorities concerned to take prompt measures to stop this.

Monir Hossain, a resident of Kalibari area, said a significant portion of the embankment has been grabbed. Besides, many pillars on the walkway have been destroyed to set up illegal infrastructures, he added.

Contacted, Faruq Hasan, local ward commissioner, said they will soon start eviction drives.

Manas Biswas, town planner of Mymensingh, echoed him.

Akhlaq Ul Jamil, executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board in Mymensingh, said they have started to prepare a list of the encroachers to take necessary steps against them.

Drives were conducted on numerous occasions against the grabbers, but they keep returning after intervals, he added.



With the intense heat wave turning peoples' lives miserable, thousands of tourists thronged the Cox's Bazar sea beach yesterday, seeking respite.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVU

Road accidents kill five in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Five people, including a truck driver and his helper, were killed in separate road accidents in Ghoraghat, Hakimpur, and Birganj upazilas of Dinajpur yesterday.

In Ghoraghat upazila, a truck driver and his helper were killed as their vehicle collided head-on with another truck in the morning.

The accident took place at Osmanpur Tinmatha intersection of the Dinajpur-Gobindganj regional highway around 7:30am.

The deceased are Golam Rabbani, 45, and Mohammad Rezwana, 34. They both hailed from Mirgram-Choumuhoni village of Joypurhat Sadar upazila.

They were in a corn-laden truck going to Gobindganj from

Dinajpur when it collided with a fertiliser-laden truck heading to Dinajpur from Bogura.

Ghoraghat Police Station Officer-in-Charge Asaduzzaman



Asad said they have seized the trucks and informed the victims' families about the accident.

"The driver and helper of the other truck escaped. The bodies of the two deceased are in the upazila health

complex. A case will be filed under the Road Control Act," said the OC.

In Hakimpur upazila, two friends were killed after a Nasimon (human haulier) carrying cattle hit their motorbike at Dangapara village on Hakimpur-Birampur road around 2:30pm.

The deceased are Dhiman Kumar Ghosh, 30, of Kumarpara village, and Arif Hossain, 32, of Daudpur village in Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur.

The accident happened when they were going to Nawabganj via Birampur upazila from Hakimpur, said SM Zahangir Alam, inspector (investigation) of Hakimpur Police Station.

Police seized the human haulier from the spot, added the inspector. SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Two bodies found in Gazipur flat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police yesterday recovered the body of two teenagers from a flat in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila. Family member of one of the deceased said the teens were married to each other.

The deceased are Md Israfil, 17, son of Md Mofizul Haque of Sherpur, and Rokeya Khatun, 15, daughter of Abul Kashem of Mymensingh.

Police said their deaths occurred sometime between 1:00am and 6:00am.

Sreepur Police Station OC Akbar Ali Khan said law enforcers recovered the bodies from a ground-floor flat area around 8:00am. He said they also recovered a suicide note. Rokeya worked at a garment factory and Israfil worked at a workshop.

Abu Raihan, Rokeya's elder brother, said the two got married seven or eight months ago against the wishes of their families. Inspector (Investigation) of Sreepur Police Station Md Sakhawat Hossain said they are looking into the incident.

Newspaper staffer found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police recovered the body of a man near Kalapathor field in Sylhet city's Hazaribagh area early yesterday.

The deceased is Amith Das Sebu, 36, a computer operator at Daily Uttorpurbo, a local newspaper.

Amith, a resident of Narshingtila, was found more than 5 kilometres away from his house and in the opposite direction of his office.

Bappa Maitra, a reporter at Uttorpurbo, said, "Amith left the office around 8:30pm for home."

Amith had no known enmity with anyone, according to his family.

Police sent the body for autopsy.

Azbahar Ali Sheikh, deputy commissioner (north) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said, "We are awaiting autopsy results and have initiated an investigation."

Man dies from electrocution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A man died from electrocution while repairing an electric fan in Barguna's Taltali yesterday.

The deceased is Afzal Matubbar, 50.

Matubbar was declared dead at Taltali Upazila Health Complex, said Taltali Police Station OC (Investigation) Ranjit Kumar Sarkar.

Firefighters attacked over 'delayed response'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police have arrested two persons in a case filed over an attack on a firefighting vehicle of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Kaharol upazila of Dinajpur on Thursday night.

The arrestees are Md Zahangir Alam and Md Sohanur of Gornurpur village in the upazila, said Md Farukul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kaharol Police Station.

An official of Kaharol fire service filed the case.

A fire broke out at Arif Filling Station at Doshmile area on Dinajpur Panchagarh Highway in the upazila around 8:10pm on Thursday night.

On information, firefighters from Dinajpur, Birganj

and Kaharol went to the area to douse the blaze.

Abdul Khaled, in charge of Kaharol fire service, said they received the call at 8:19pm.

When a water-laden truck arrived on the spot around 8:40pm after driving 12km amid heavy traffic, some 25-30 people, armed with iron rods and sharp weapons, attacked the truck alleging delayed response of the fire service and left two firefighters injured, said an official.

The injured firefighters -- inspector Rezaul Karim, 37, and driver Motaleb Hossain, 46, -- were later admitted to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for treatment.

The three units of firefighters doused the blaze within an hour.





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