

Tears, hugs, and an unexpected reunion

Missing man returns home after 17yrs

KONGKON KARMAKER

Sadequl Islam disappeared from his home in Dalua village, Birganj upazila, Dinajpur, in 2007. He was 25 at the time and had been battling mental health issues for several years.

His sudden disappearance left his family searching for him desperately, holding on to hope that one day he would

who then admitted him to a mental facility.

Sadequl's condition improved during his time in the hospital, where he began to regain fragments of his memory. A staff member at the facility, Shukla, played a pivotal role in piecing together details of his past. Through her efforts and coordination with Indian and Bangladeshi authorities,



Sadequl Islam with his parents at his home in Dalua village of Birganj upazila in Dinajpur.

PHOTO: STAR

return.

For years, there was no news of Sadequl. At one point, his family thought Sadequl was dead.

In reality, he had somehow crossed the border into India and ended up in Kolkata. Sadequl does not remember how he ended up in the neighbouring country.

There, he was found wandering around by locals

Sadequl's identity and home were eventually traced.

Eight months ago, the Birganj police informed Sadequl's family that he had been located.

"Finding out he was alive felt like a miracle," said Akbar Ali, recalling the moment they received the call.

On December 24, Sadequl crossed the Benapole land

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EROSION BY TEESTA

360 families homeless and forgotten

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmirhat

Shamoli Begum, 32, sat with her three children on a barren shoal of the Teesta river, their faces etched with despair. A month ago, the river swallowed their eight-decimal homestead, leaving them with nothing but heartbreak. One of their three small houses was washed away, and the remaining two were salvaged with the help of neighbours and relocated to someone else's land. Their two bighas of farmland now lie buried under the river's relentless currents.

Shamoli said, "The Teesta river has taken everything from us. We're struggling to survive."

Her husband, Alam

Hossain, echoed the despair. "We can't afford to rebuild, and buying land for a new home is impossible," he said. "I'm barely able to support my family with the little I earn each day."



In the same village, 46-year-old Mohosena Begum shared a similar tragedy. The Teesta devoured her seven-decimal homestead and one bigha of farmland. Now, she and her family live under the open sky.

"No one, neither

government nor private, has come to help us," Mohosena said. "We've been half-starved since the erosion."

According to Matiar Rahman Mati, a Union Parishad member, 86 families in three wards have lost their homes and farmland in the past month. A list of affected families was prepared, but no action has been taken yet.

The devastation extends beyond Gobardhan. Villages in Aditmari upazila, Lalmirhat Sadar upazila, and Hatibandha upazila have all been severely impacted.

The District Relief and Rehabilitation Office confirmed that 360 families have been affected by river erosion in the last month.

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DURGAPUR MUNICIPALITY Waste dumped in open for 7 years

MD AMINUL ISLAM

The Durgapur municipality in Netrakona is grappling with a persistent garbage disposal crisis, as waste has been dumped in the open for years, significantly harming both the environment and locals.

According to locals, the dumping has been occurring at the Someshwari Bridge area in Char Muktarpura for the past seven years.

Despite being established in 1994, the municipality, which spans 24.13 square kilometres and serves around 30,400 citizens, has yet to develop a proper waste management system.

There are no dustbins available within the municipality, and approximately one tonne of garbage is generated daily.



Residents said the area is also known for its scenic attractions, including the White Clay Hills, which draw tourists in large numbers. However, the ongoing garbage crisis tarnishes the region's appeal and poses challenges for residents and visitors alike.

An ex-councillor said the municipality operates with 30 cleaning staff, making it difficult to manage the garbage effectively.

During heavy rainfall, much of the waste ends up in local water bodies, including the Someshwari river, due to inadequate waste management measures.

This situation has led to severe pollution of the river, said local businessman Subed Mahmud.

The bus stand, located next to the dumping site, exposes hundreds of passengers and transport workers to unpleasant conditions daily.

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Zakir Hossain tends to his cauliflower field in the Khanoa area of Dakkhin Surma upazila, Sylhet. He expects to supply the popular winter vegetable to local markets within 15–20 days. This year, Zakir has planted 4,000 cauliflower plants alongside other vegetables, hoping for a significant profit. The photo was taken recently.

Our aim's not power, it's to establish good governance

Says Jamaat ameer

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Benapole

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said his party's aim is not to come to power, but to establish good governance in the country.

"We want two things from the people of the country. If we work for the country, for the people, then we want the love of your hearts. You should give us the gift of love. Along with love, we want support and cooperation. We want a place in your hearts to change this nation."

He said these while speaking as the chief guest at a conference organised by the Jashore district Jamaat at the Jashore Eidgah.

Shafiqur said if Jamaat gets the opportunity to serve the countrymen, extortion will not exist in this country.

"There will be no bribery. We want to build a nation that will not tolerate fascism and imperialism," he said.

He said before August 5, the country was full of misrule.

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Horse-drawn carts, the lifeline of char economy

S DILIP ROY, Lalmirhat

Horse-drawn carts remain the primary mode of transportation for goods in the char areas of Kurigram and Lalmirhat, where the sandy riverbeds of the Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dharla, Duhukumar, and Gangadhar rivers dominate the landscape.

Each char typically has 10 to 50 horse-drawn carts, with approximately 500 chars spread across the region -- 400 in Kurigram and 100 in Lalmirhat.

While buffalo carts were once common in these areas a decade ago, they have largely disappeared, though buffaloes are still reared for other purposes.

Raju Islam, a cart driver from Char Shakhahati on the Brahmaputra, said buying a horse costs between Tk 20,000 and 50,000, while building a cart can cost up to Tk 80,000.

The carts can carry 10-15 maunds of goods, but drivers usually limit loads to 7-8 maunds per trip to maintain the horses' health. They charge Tk 80-100 per maund for every 3-4 kilometres travelled on the sandy char land.

"The work is as hard for us as it is for the horses," said Raju.

Ahadul Haque from Char Kalmati

on the Teesta river said horse-drawn carts are essential for transporting goods between the mainland and chars during the dry season. He earns Tk 1,200-1,500 daily from 3-4 trips but spends Tk 500-600 on horse feed.

Shafiqul Islam from Char Jatrapur in Kurigram said horse-drawn carts are even used to transport sick individuals and enable government officials and NGO workers to reach remote areas in the absence of other vehicles.

During the rainy season, boats replace carts as the main mode of transport.

"Until a specialised vehicle is invented for char terrain, horse-drawn carts will remain our primary form of transport," said Meher Ali from Char Harinchara on the Teesta.

Kabir Hossain, a trader at Jatrapur Haat, said the local economy revolves around horse-drawn carts. Goods are transported between the chars and mainland markets, but rising costs of horse feed have driven up transportation expenses.

Ahsanul Kabir Bulu, an NGO official working in the chars, said, "During the dry season, horse-drawn carts are the only way to transport goods across the sandy terrain. The economy of the chars cannot be imagined without them."



3 killed in Pabna road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Three people were killed and three others injured when a truck hit a three-wheeler human haulier at Rangamatia in Shanthia upazila, Pabna yesterday.

The deceased are Khokon Hossain, 27, Dhoni Pramanik, 50, and Russel Hossain, 27.

Md Saidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shanthia Police Station, said a group of labourers riding on the three-wheeler (locally known as Kariman) were going to a field for harvesting onions around 5:00am.

Three of them died

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Date: 26/12/2024

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SL	Tender ID & Package No	Name of Scheme	Tender Security.	Last date & Time of selling Documents	Opening & Closing Date and time
1.	1052131 LGCRP/ Moheshpur /2024- 25/W-04	Pillar-2 Drain No (iii) (a) Construction of RCC out fall drain Begumpur Ali House to Baor Ch.00- 40m (b) Construction of RCC out fall drain Begumpur Bonpara Alam House to Baor Ch.00-70m at ward no.01 Under Moheshpur Pourashava. Pillar-2 Road No (v) Maintenance of Road from Moheshpur Bazar main road Proposed Poura Market to House of Siraz Doctor via Mohon House Ch.00-224m at Ward No.06 Under Moheshpur Pourashava. Pillar-2 Road No (ii) Maintenance of Road From Patibila Abdul Khaleque house to Siddiqu Rahman shop ch.00-208m at ward no.07 Under Moheshpur Pourashava. Pillar-2 Road No.(iii) Maintenance of Road from Garabaria West Para/ Mattpara Tara Chand house to main road Via Nazir house Ch.00m to 204.00m. At Ward no.09 Under Moheshpur Pourashava.	192000	Date: 22/01/25 Teme: 16.00	Date: 23/01/25 Teme: 13.00

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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://helpdesk.eprocure.gov.bd>). Also visit the Maheshpur website : www.ps.moheshpur.jhenaidah.gov.bd & www.lged.gov.bd. For any queries interested tenderer are requested communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

26/12/2024

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