

## Khagrachhari rivers hiss with the onset of monsoon

People residing on the banks of the rivers begin to move to safer places

JASIM MAJUMDER

At least 1,500 houses and more than 5,000 acres of land, including crop land of 20 villages in six upazilas have been devoured due to river erosion in the district in the last five years, official and local sources said.

Besides, over 500 villagers become homeless due to the river erosion in the district, sources added.

Khagrachhari becomes a land of natural calamity due to massive erosion in the rivers Chenghi, Mainee and Feni during the monsoon every year causing suffering to the people residing on the banks of the rivers.

Worst more, the local administration, political parties or people's representatives are indifferent to this problem.

Many people along the banks of rivers already have left their

ancestral homes in Khagrachhari Sadar, Dighinala, Laxmichhari, Mohalchhari, Manikchhari and Ramgarh upazilas and shifted their households to safer places for their livelihood.

The worst affected villages on the banks of the rivers Chenghi, Mainee and Feni are Gonjapara, Shavdamiyapara, Rajjamonipara, Khabangpuriya, Aparnachowdhuripara of Sadar upazila, Fatemanagar, Sutakarmapara, Latiban, Barkal Abhilashpara of Panchhari upazila, Anandapara, Lasaripara of Laxmichhari upazila, Sonaiful, Mohamuni, Darogapara of Ramgarh upazila, Boalkhali, Hasinsonpur, Merong, Babuchhara of Dighinala upazila and Babupara, Mohalchhari of Mohalchhari upazila.

Within 10 days of the onset of rainy season, Chenghi, Mainee and Feni usually swell up around two feet and thus creates heavy

onrush of water leading to the erosion on both banks.

During a recent visit to Gonjapara village in Sadar upazila this correspondent found

At least 50 villagers have been shifted to safer places to escape the wrath of erosion in last one month.

The rivers have devoured completely the piece of my ancestral land, compelling me to shift my households along with my family, bemoaned Chaila Aung, 45, of Gonjapara.

Mongshi Prue Marma, another villager aged about 43, blamed the local lawmaker for not keeping his promises to take measures to stop the erosion as well as help the erosion-affected villagers.

During election campaign, he (MP) promised us of constructing embankments on both the banks of the rivers but has not

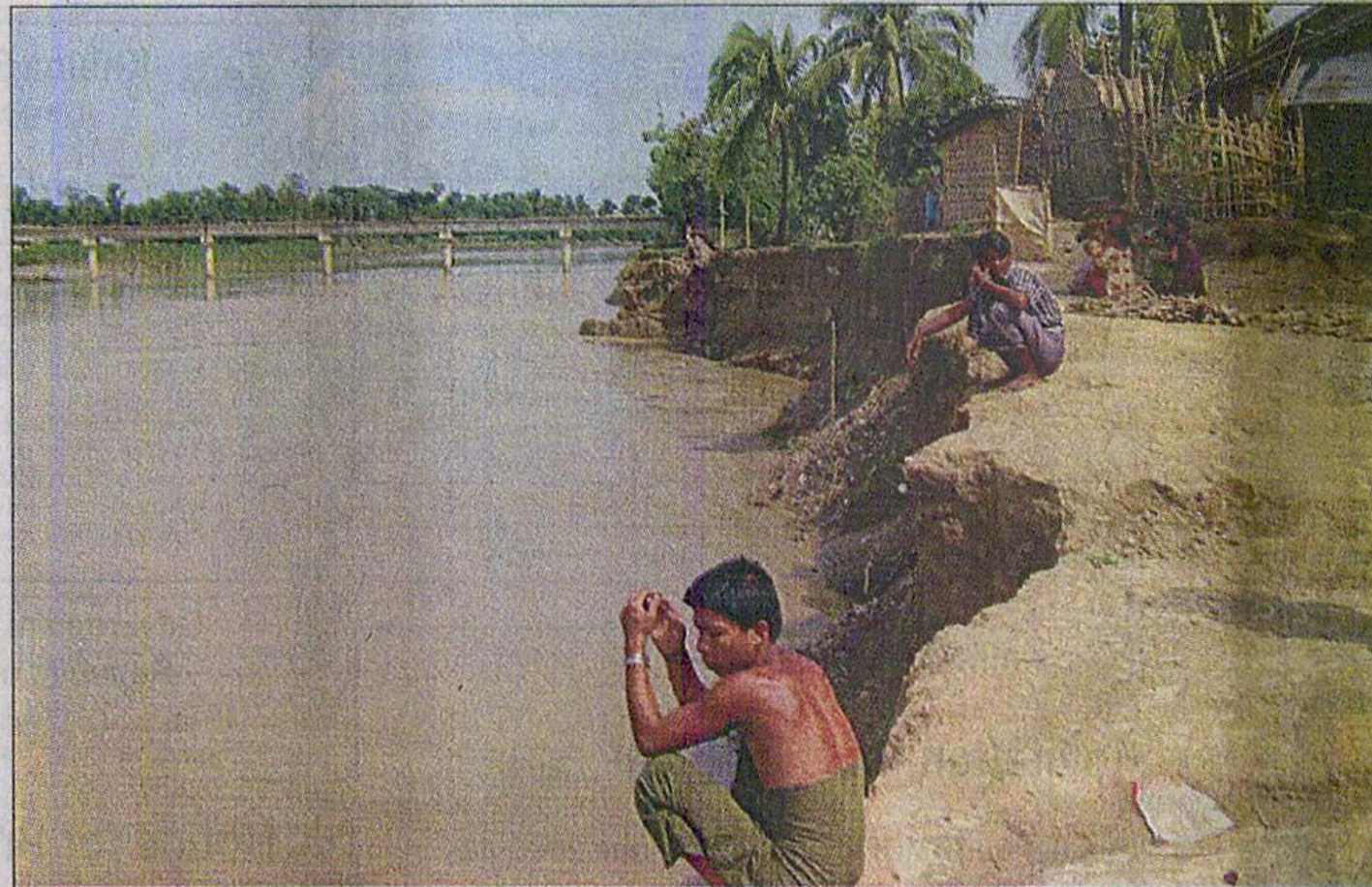
kept his words yet, he said.

Officials said about 15 villages of Sadar upazila are now on the verge of erosion. Besides, many government and semi-government structures, including school, college, Parjatan motel, bailey bridge, BDR camp and mosque also are in danger.

Golabari Union Parishad Chairman Chaila Prue Marma said many villages of his union are threatened by the river erosion, but he is unable to do anything for them due to insufficient allotment from the government.

Khagrachhari Poursava Chairman Joyal Abedin, however, said there is no dearth of government's sincerity and initiatives are being taken to protect people affected by erosion.

Water Development Board officials were not available for comments.



Erosion of the river Chengi continues to devour homesteads and cultivable lands along its banks at Ganjopara in Khagrachhari.



Radiology and Imaging Department, left, of Chittagong Medical College Hospital and poor outdoor patients, right, wait in a corridor.

## CMCH X-ray service for outdoor patients suspended

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

The X-ray service at the Radiology and Imaging Department of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) has remained suspended for the poor outdoor patients for the last four months.

Shortage of X-ray film and insufficient allocation forced them to stop the outdoor service, authorities concerned said. It is now forcing around 100 poor outdoor patients get their prescribed X-ray done at a higher cost from outside the hospital everyday.

Sources at the radiology department said authorities also suspended the X-ray service for the indoor and outdoor patients due to non-availability of films for several months in the hospital last year. The department, however, resumed the service on February 26 this year after the supply of X-ray films began.

But, this time the authorities in a verbal order kept the service suspended for the outdoor patients who earlier availed the service on a nominal payment. Mokhesur Rahman, a medical technologist of the department, said a patient is to pay Tk 150 or more now for X-ray outside the hospital, which they availed at only Tk 44 to Tk 55 each in the hospital.

Earlier, on an average over 100 outdoor patients used to get the facility at the hospital, he said.

Meanwhile, technologists at the department said since the service was being provided only to the indoor patients they never faced any shortage of

films.

Dr Anisul Maola, head of the Radiology and Imaging Department, said the department would render X-ray service to both the indoor and the outdoor patients free of cost few years ago.

But, the free service to the outdoor patients was suspended following an audit objection by the Accounts Department of the government around six years ago, Dr Maola

**Shortage of X-ray film and insufficient allocation forced the Radiology and Imaging Department of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) to stop the outdoor service**

said, adding that the department, however, continued the service to the outdoor patients for a nominal price until last year. But the shortage of films forced us to suspend the service to almost all the indoor and outdoor patients, he added.

Sources at the store department said supply of the X-ray films from the Central Medical Store Department (CMSD) in Dhaka is inadequate against the

demand in the hospital.

Dr Debashis Dutta, store in-charge of the CMCH, said number of patients has increased in the hospital and price of the films also gone up due to devaluation of taka that might have caused suspension of the service to the outdoor patients.

In fact allocation for the X-ray films has enhanced but not sufficient as the demand increased by several times, he said, adding that at present the number of only the indoor patients stood at 1800.

CMCH Director Brigadier Abedur Rahman said they are now giving priority to the indoor patients for the service. So, first of all, we want to ensure X-ray service for the indoor patients and outdoor patients will also be provided the service if films are available, he said.

On the other hand, in some cases the indoor patients are also being deprived of the X-ray service from the hospital, said a technologist on condition of anonymity.

Putting up a statistics in this regard, he said the number of patients from the emergency and the casualty departments considered as the indoor patients, which also decreased remarkably in the last few months.

At present some three to four patients come from the two departments everyday instead of about 30 patients three months ago, he said.

Many alleged that a section of concerned staffs and even doctors of the two departments compel the indoor patients to go outside the hospital for x-ray.

### Rich tribute to Jahanara Imam

The twelfth death anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam was observed in the port city with due solemnity.

Different organisations chalked out programmes, including discussion, recitation of poems and rally.

Chittagong District unit of Ekatturer Ghatok Dala Nirmul Committee (Committee to eliminate killers and collaborators of 1971) and Muktiujddher Shaheed Smriti Pathagar organised a discussion on Monday at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

Speakers paid rich tribute to Jahanara Imam and recalled her contribution to fighting against the anti-liberation forces.

Veteran politician Abu Saleh presided over the discussion. Advisor to Awami League Professor Hamida

### Uphold CSE benchmark

Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) President MKM Mohiuddin at a meeting urged the officials to take strong and united efforts to uphold CSE benchmark.

He was addressing a meeting with the CSE officials at its conference room on Sunday.

Recalling the success story of most essential infrastructures, Mohiuddin said, "We have introduced automated trading system first ever in the country, a regional platform SAFE for cross-border trading and mutual co-operation, Internet Trading Service NRB and foreign investors and Mobile Stock Service."

He thanked the officials for their dedicated contribution, hard work and transparency.

Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, first vice-president, said as CSE is

chair.

Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian was present at the ceremony as special guest.

RAB Group of Bangladesh and Siam Bangla Inter Trade Limited jointly established the store.

Amir Khasru in his speech said city dwellers are now too busy to find enough time for shopping. Shopping style is being changed and the concept of super store has added to this style.

He said, "Walmart Super Store has earned much popularity in the city for its modern facilities."

Sources said the 12000 square feet super store will provide with all types of familiar goods for its customers under one roof.

RAB Group chairman Mohammad Shamsul Alam, managing director Shah Alam Babul, Siam Bangla Inter Trade Director Ekrin Neil Chowdhury and Walmart chief executive officer Shafiqul Alam Jewel were present at the inaugural function.

The speakers urged the students to begin tougher movement for pressing home their demand for more allocation for education and student welfare.

### 3 model police stations in Ctg

Three police stations in Chittagong, out of eleven in the country, have been recognised as model police stations. This was disclosed at a workshop here on Saturday.

The 11 police stations are Dhanmondi, Uttara, Feni, Chandpur, Narsingdi, Narayanganj, Comilla, Jessore and Patenga, Double Mooring and Panchalaish in Chittagong.

The workshop organised by Panchalaish Police Station held at Swiss Perk Community Centre in cooperation of Home Ministry, UNDP

and DFID.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Md. Mazedul Hoque was present as chief guest at the workshop with Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Chittagong Range Md Sheikh Sazzad Ali in the chair.

Deputy Police Commissioner (Port) Dr Nazmul Karim Khan was present as special guest while former Inspector General (IG) of Police and former Secretary AYBI Siddique coordinated the workshop.

The speakers said that each police member of the model police stations would be provided with higher training.

They emphasised on the development of the relations between police staffs and mass people.

Distinguished persons of the city, elected representatives, NGO organisers, human rights workers, women leaders and representatives of workers and rickshawpullers were present at the workshop.



Recipients of awards with crests in hand pose for photograph at a prize distribution ceremony at Chittagong Club on Saturday. Bangladesh Federation of Women University Chittagong organised the ceremony sponsored by Brac Bank Limited.

Banu, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, General Secretary of Chittagong District Bar Association Advocate Ratan Roy, Nirmul Committee district unit President Professor Helaluddin Nizami and Pathagar President Quamrul Hasan Badai spoke.

Proma, a cultural organisation, arranged a discussion, recitation programme and mourning procession the same day. The discussion was held on the central Shaheed Minar premises, with Proma President Rashed Hasan in the chair.

Noted social scientist Dr Anupam Sen, woman activist Begum Mustari Shafi, poet and journalist Abul Momen, Chittagong University teacher Professor Gazi Salehuddin and Communist Part General Secretary Shah Alam also spoke.

Kankan Das, Mainul Azam, Debashish Rudra, Mobidur Rahman and Faruk Taher recited poems dedicated to Jahanara Imam while Zarine Mili and Mostak Ahmad presented the brief life sketch of Shaheed Janani.

presently a geographical neutral organisation, every corner in Bangladesh should reach their efforts to ensure facilities of share trading.

CSE Chief Executive Officer AB Siddique, directors Bijan Chakraborty, ASM Shahidullah, Deputy Manager Corporate Development AKM Shahroze Alam, Deputy Manager (Accounts) Mansur Ahmad, Deputy Manager (System) Mesbah Uddin and Assistant Manager Nahidul Islam Khan also spoke at the meeting.

### 2nd Wellmart Super Store opens

The 2nd outlet of Wellmart Super Store, hit the port city at Agrabad Excess Road on Thursday.

Former Commerce Minister Amir Khasu Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest inaugurated the outlet at a ceremony with RAB Group vice president Mohammad Ruhul Amin in the

### SCF rejects proposed CU budget

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) leaders rejected the proposed budget of the Chittagong University (CU) for the year 2006-2007.

SCF rejected the budget at a protest rally held in front of Arts Faculty on Sunday with CU President Kanchan Sarker in the chair.

Speaker said the allocation for education, research and student welfare was only 6 per cent of the total budget of Tk 54 crore while it was 11 per cent last year.

They blamed the suggestion for 25 per cent increasing in fees every year in order to solve the deficit of around Tk 4 crore.

SCF Central Office Secretary Mehedi Hasan Tamal, CU General Secretary AKM Zamiruddin Rasel and Vice-President Monidipa Bhattacharia addressed the rally.



Child litterateur Faruq Newaz speaks at a meeting organised by Bangladesh Shishu Sahitya Academy at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Thursday.



A scene from the drama "Bela Shesher Galpa" staged at a drama festival at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy on Friday. Nandimukh organised the drama festival titled, "Nandimukh Natya Utsab".