

# Downpour breaches Mymensingh protection dyke

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Last week's heavy downpour caused severe damage to eight-kilometre-long Mymensingh City Protection Embankment at five points.

Two of the damaged points are in Khagdohor Taltola area and three others in Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Park (Saheb Quarters Park) area of the divisional city, said sources at Mymensingh Water Development Board (WDB).

Work of the embankment from Khagdohor to Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge

(Shambhuganj Bridge) area began in 1998 and was completed in 2008 under the Secondary Towns Integrated Flood Protection Project funded by the World Bank, said WDB sources.

The area experienced a heavy rainfall on May 28 and the rainwater rolled down the embankment, causing damage to it, WDB sources said.

"On an emergency basis, we started repair work in Zainul Park area on June 1 involving required number of workers. Primary we assessed that it will cost around Tk 8 lakh for repair work at the three points," said Md Musa, executive engineer of WDB, Mymensingh.

For repair work at two points in Khagdohor Taltola area, contractors will be assigned after assessment of the cost very soon, he added.

The repair work will be completed soon as the water level



This area of Mymensingh City Protection Embankment, along with a few other spots, developed breaches following last week's heavy downpour.

PHOTO: STAR

in the Brahmaputra River is going up every day, WDB officials said, adding that it will become difficult to repair the dyke if the water level in the river sees a sharp rise.

The embankment faced damage after heavy downpour due to unplanned tree plantation alongside the embankment and appearance of rat holes, said WDB

Executive Engineer Md Musa.

Due to faulty drainage system along the embankment, the water cannot flow out easily after heavy rain and it enters the gaps in the embankment, causing such havoc, he said.

Engineer Nurul Amin Kalam, secretary of Mymensingh Nagorik Andolon, a citizens' forum,

said during construction of the embankment, the work of earth-filling was not done properly and so the embankment sees damage after every heavy shower.

Earth filling work at the damaged points should be done properly and the slopes to drain out the rainwater into the river should be modified, he suggested.

# Road damaged days after construction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A one kilometer road stretching from Gourangi Uttar Para to Akashi School in Ghatail upazila has been badly damaged due to rain within days of completion of its construction work.

It became unfit for traffic and motor vehicles due to a number of potholes and cracks, causing immense sufferings to the commuters, said locals.

They have mainly blamed low quality construction work for such damage caused by light rain.

In 2018-19 fiscal year, Tk 94.94 lakh was allocated for construction of the road, according to Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) in Ghatail.

Construction firm Shova Enterprise got the work order while Louhajang Enterprise implemented the work.

The construction of the road was completed around late April, said villagers.

Around 20 days after completion of the construction work, a number of potholes and cracks have developed at different points of the road due to rain, said Masud Miah, a resident of Akashi village.

Khasru Talukder, former member of the local union parishad, said although the road got damaged due to rain, the low quality

of construction work was the main reason behind the damage.

Kazi Arzu, vice chairman of Ghatail upazila parishad, said being informed, he recently visited the area and found potholes and cracks at different points of the road.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach any representative of the construction firm for their comment on the issue.

However, quoting the contractor, an official of local LGED said untimely heavy rain was the main reason behind damage of the road.

Ashraf Uddin, Ghatail upazila assistant engineer of LGED, said the construction work is yet to be completed. Some damaged parts of the road need renovation. Necessary steps will be taken in this regard immediately.

Meanwhile, local people have submitted a written complaint to the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) demanding reconstruction of the road.

UNO Anjan Kumar Sarkar said he has already informed the deputy commissioner (DC) in Tangail about the matter.

"The DC has directed us not to release bills of the works until completion of the renovation work of the damaged parts of the road," he added.



A one kilometer road from Gourangi Uttar Para to Akashi School in Tangail's Ghatail upazila gets damaged within days of its construction.

PHOTO: STAR

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ**  
 পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়  
 রাজবাড়ী

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০২০-২০২১**

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 ১৯৪৪০০, ১৯ ৬৫৩৩০

ক্রি-১৫৬

# Paddy, mango, litchi on 30 acres damaged

Locals point finger at a brick kiln for the loss

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A huge amount of mature paddy, mango, litchi and maize on more than 30 acres of land was damaged on the night of May 21 in Sujalpur village of Birganj upazila.

The affected farmers, as many as 25, alleged that their crops were damaged when hot and toxic fumes were spewed by a brick kiln, Maa Bricks, situated by the Dhepa river in the village under Nijpara union.

They said the fume was released during the shutdown process of the kiln, owned by one Shamsheer Ali, that night and they found out about the damage next morning.

They also said they sent a petition to Birganj upazila nirbahi officer early last week, seeking compensation for the damage.

The extent of the damage is so severe that not a single kilogram of rice can now be salvaged from the crop field, said a farmer.

Damage to an adjacent litchi orchard, a mango orchard (on four acres of land) and a maize field (on

six acres) was also extensive. The total area of the litchi orchard could not be known immediately.

A large number of fruits from the litchi and mango trees in the orchards are now falling off, the farmers said.

Ramisa Begum, whose husband Abu Bakar Siddique died recently, said they cultivated paddy on one bigha of land leased from Abdul Kader in the village.

They worked hard for the paddy, but the matured crop is completely ruined overnight by the fume from the kiln, she lamented. "I don't know whom I should complain to for its compensation."

Another affected farmer, Jitendranath Roy, said he cultivated paddy on one acre of land and he was hoping to pay off his debts after harvesting the paddy. "Now my worry is how I would repay the debts."

Mango trader Mamunur Rashid said he had leased a mango orchard on four acres of land for Tk 6 lakh, but all the mango in the orchard are now ruined because of the fumes from the brick kiln.

When the entire country went into shutdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the farmers continued their work as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged all not to leave one inch of arable land unutilised in order to cope with looming economic crisis due to the pandemic.

The farmers are already in a financial crisis due to falling prices of their produce over the last few years and unless due compensation is arranged, they might not survive such a huge blow to their livelihood, Mamun added.

Department of Agricultural Extension official Manoranjan Adhikari said after getting complaints from the farmers, he visited the affected area already.

He also said a report assessing the damage has also been filed with the higher authorities.

Contacted, Birganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Yamin Hossain ensured that legal action would be taken against the brickfield owner and compensation would be paid to all the affected farmers.



People inspect damage to a paddy field in Sujalpur village of Birganj upazila recently. Hot and toxic fumes spewed by a brick kiln on May 21 have damaged crops on around 30 acres of land surrounding the kiln, alleged locals.

PHOTO: STAR

## Lightning kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A man was killed in lightning strike in Rangabali upazila on Wednesday.

The deceased, Faizul Gazi, 30, was son of Bazlu Gazi of Sajirhaola village.

Police said the incident occurred when a streak of thunderbolt hit Faizul while he was cutting earth inside a fish enclosure near Kaukhali Sluice Gate around 11:00am on Wednesday, leaving him dead on the spot.

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