



PHOTO: STAR, COLLECTED

# Over 20,000 families marooned in low-lying areas of Pabna

## Many areas under erosion threat as Padma and Jamuna swell up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Over 20 thousand families have been marooned as swelling Padma, Jamuna and Boral rivers have flooded around a hundred villages of five upazilas in Pabna.

Many of the affected areas are also facing massive river erosion.

Now the Jamuna river is flowing 54 centimetres above the danger level, said Md Abdul Hamid, executive engineer of Water Development Board's (WDB) Bera division.

Over 40 thousand people of four unions in Bera upazila have been affected by flood but till now the people under the flood protection embankment areas are safe, said Asif Anam Siddique, the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO).

Sujanagar UNO Md Rawshan Alam said the four unions have been affected for immense waterlogging while several hundred families in the affected areas have been marooned. Besides, people of the affected areas are facing the threat of massive river erosion, he added.

In Sujanagar upazila, the Padma devoured over five hundred homesteads at Gupinpur, Borkhapur, Raipur, Gulchandpur Haat-malifa, and Khalilpur areas in last few weeks, said WDB engineer Abdul Hamid.

The erosion also hit Notakhola, Ghosilonda, Modhupur, Munshiganj, Paikandi and Panchakola areas of Bera upazila under the district, he said, adding that WDB workers are dumping sandbags in the erosion-hit areas.

Meanwhile, due to the rise of water level in the Jamuna, the Boral river has swelled up, flooding many areas in Chatmohar, Vangura and Faridpur upazilas in the Chalanbeel region over the week, said Md Johurul Islam, executive engineer of Pabna WDB.

"At least five unions of the three upazilas have been flooded. Over a hundred villages in low-lying areas of five upazilas of the district have been flooded," he said.

During this correspondent's visit to the affected areas, the flood affected people said they are facing problem due to shortage of food and drinking water but they are yet to get any support from the district administration.

"We cannot move as the entire village has been flooded. But we are not getting any relief," said Md Sabuz Hossain of Hugaladangi village in Sujanagar upazila.

Contacted, Pabna district relief and rehabilitation officer Md Rejaul Karim said, "Low-lying areas and riverside villages have been flooded but the areas inside flood protection embankments are still safe. The district is yet to be declared a flood-hit area. But the situation is at a vulnerable stage and we are keeping watch on the situation."

Asked about relief work, the official said, "Till now there is no relief for the flood-hit people in Pabna. We are distributing rice under VGF [vulnerable group feeding] programme, which will continue till July 28. We are giving priority to the affected areas."

# It exists only in paper

SOHRAB HOSSAIN WITH FIROZ A MUZAHID

The pandemic has ruined livelihoods of many hardworking honest people, but it apparently could not stop those who had been repeatedly feasting on public money.

In April, when the entire country was grappling to stop the spread of Covid-19, a civil contractor in collusion with at least one such repeat offender, also a government employee, collected over Tk 1.11 crore as payment for a job that exists only in paper.

The payment was collected on April 8 for constructing 10 community centres and concrete steps in six ponds for residents of at least ten different housing projects in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila under Ashrayan-2. Surprisingly, the contractor returned the money to the authorities last week (invoice number 35, dated July 21).

Ashrayan is a government-funded project, undertaken with an aim to provide housing facilities for the homeless and the underprivileged.

Locals said Shamim Mia, proprietor of contractor firm Sarika Traders, located in Patuakhali's Rangabali upazila, returned the money on July 21 afternoon after more than three hundred residents of the Ashrayan project formed a human chain in the morning that day in front of Kalapara Police Station.

The Ashrayan residents at the demonstration demanded punishment for the ones who committed forgery to pocket the money from the project as well as completion of the project as planned.

The incident of the forgery came to light after Abu Hasnat Mohammad Shahidul Haque, the new Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) who joined his workplace in Kalapara on March 22, was asked by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to submit a report on the progress of the construction of

community centres and concrete steps for ponds under Ashrayan-2 project in the upazila.

During his investigation, UNO Hasnat found out that on April 8, more than two weeks into the transfer of the then UNO Munibur Rahman to Barisal Sadar upazila, the contractor collected Tk 1,11,17,635 after submitting relevant documents of the non-existent construction work with signatures of Munibur Rahman and Project Implementation Officer (PIO) of Kalapara Tapan Kumar Ghosh.

He also found anomalies in opening of a joint bank account with Pubali Bank where financial

commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali. The former UNO, Munibur, said during his tenure in the previous workplace, he was not informed of the project undertaken for the construction of community centres and concrete steps in ponds as part of Ashrayan-2 and he never signed any document pertaining to release of payment for such construction work.

After he left Kalapara, in order to forge his signature, the criminals might have obtained his original signature samples that are available in different documents in the UNO's office in Kalapara, he added.

Rintu Talukder, chairman of

mentioned, were issued only by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the payment was made directly to the bank account of the contractor.

When asked why he collected payment for a work that never took place, Shamim Mia, the contractor, said he only collected the money as the Project Implementation Office of Kalapara asked him to do so over phone.

But after realising that he had been unable to do any work since then due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, he returned all the money to the government, he claimed.

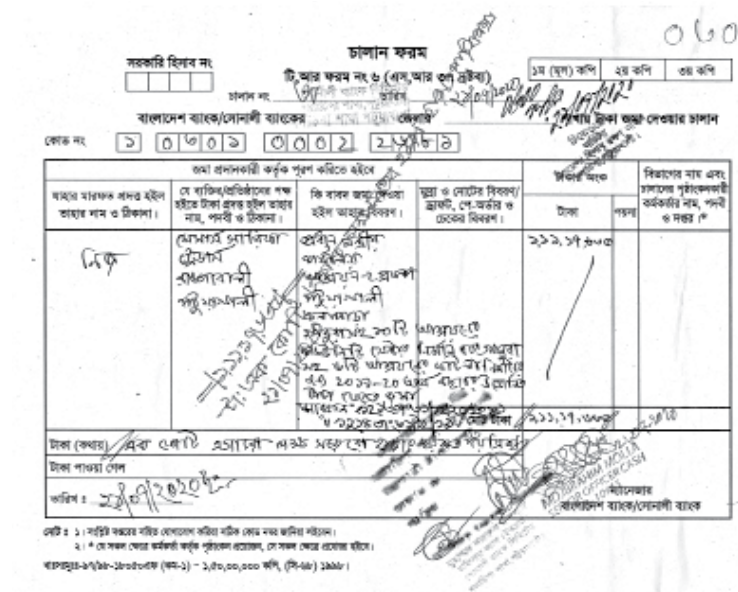
Reached over cell phone for his comments over the allegation, PIO Tapan Kumar Ghosh initially claimed ignorance and refused to divulge any information over phone, but he later said his signature was also forged to collect the money.

He also repeatedly offered to "discuss in detail" about the matter if this correspondent paid visit to his office.

While Tapan was working as PIO in Rangabali upazila, in a general diary (number 36) filed on April 8, 2020, it was stated that he had forged signatures of the local member of parliament and the UNO to assign a contractor for repair work of a rural road.

Furthermore, on August 13, 2013, while working in Kushtia Sadar upazila as PIO, he was suspended by department of disaster management and relief on charge of committing forgery to steal 100 tonnes of rice to be distributed under test relief (TR) programme of the government. He had to stay in jail custody during the incident, confirmed a source.

Contacted, Patuakhali DC Matiul Islam Chowdhury confirmed that he has received the report prepared by Kalapara UNO and due action would be taken against the offenders following necessary investigation.



transactions were made for the same construction work. Although government money was deposited in the account, signatures of only one signatory, that of PIO Tapan Kumar Ghosh, were used for opening the account or conducting transactions in it.

Hasnat said he mentioned his findings in his report that he submitted recently to the PMO via the office of the deputy

Champapur Union Parishad; and Anshar Uddin Mollah, chairman of Latachapali Union Parishad, said they were also not aware of any such project for Ashrayan-2 residential areas in their unions.

Both the public representatives also said that the entire process of the "mysterious project" deserves thorough investigation as all corresponding letters regarding the work, with the same contractor's



Workers of Water Development Board put sandbags to prevent erosion by the Padma river in Sujanagar upazila of Pabna.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
College Education Development Project (CEDP)  
Sherpur Govt. College, Sherpur  
Rajabari, Sherpur

### Invitation for Tenders (Re-Tender)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.				
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/National University.				
3	Procuring entity name	Principal, Sherpur Govt. College, Sherpur.				
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.				
5	Procuring entity district	Sherpur.				
6	Invitation for	Supply & Installation of Classroom Furniture (Re-Tender).				
7	Invitation Ref. No.	CEDP/IDG/SGC-1084/G-4/01(05)/20				
8	Date	26/07/2020				
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>						
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National).				
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>						
10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit).				
11	Development partners	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank.				
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>						
12	Project code	224017200				
13	Project name	College Education Development Project (CEDP).				
14	Tender Package No.	G-4.				
15	Tender package name	Supply & Installation of Classroom Furniture (Re-Tender).				
16	Tender publication date	26/07/2020				
17	Tender last selling date	12/08/2020				
18	Tender closing date and time	13/08/2020, 1.00pm				
19	Tender opening date and time	13/08/2020, 2.00pm				
20	Name & address of the office	Principal, Sherpur Govt. College, Sherpur.				
Selling tender document		(1) Office of the Principal, Sherpur Govt. College, Sherpur. (2) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sherpur. (3) Office of the Superintendent of Police, Sherpur.				
Receiving tender document		(1) Office of the Principal, Sherpur Govt. College, Sherpur. (2) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sherpur. (3) Office of the Superintendent of Police, Sherpur.				
Opening tender document		Office of the Principal, Sherpur Govt. College, Sherpur.				
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Will not be held.				
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>						
22	Eligibility of tenderer	(1) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 03 years overall experience in the supply of goods and related services; years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. (2) The minimum specific experience as supplier in supply of similar goods of at least 01 contract successfully completed within the last 03 years, each with a value of at least Tk 15.05 lac. Years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. (3) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk 17.20 lac.				
23	Brief description of goods or works	Manufacturing of wooden desk table and chair with painting (1) Desk table (For one person): 25" x 25" x 32" (2) Chair (For one person): 18" x 15" x 31"				
24	Brief description of related services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section 4: Particular Conditions of Contract Section 6: Schedule of Requirements and Section 7: Technical Specification of the tender document.				
25	Tender document price	BDT 1,500.00 (one thousand five hundred).				
26	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months	
	N/A	G-4	Sherpur	45 thousand	2 (two) months	
27	Name of official inviting tender					Professor Md. Abdur Rashid.
28	Designation of official inviting tender					Principal (Acting).
29	Address of official inviting tender					Sherpur Govt. College, Sherpur.
30	Contact details of official inviting tender		Tel: 0931-61219	Fax: N/A	E-mail: ggcvoledge@yahoo.com	
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.					

GD-1189

Professor Md. Abdur Rashid  
Principal (Acting)  
Sherpur Govt. College, Sherpur

**Pabna University of Science & Technology**  
Office of the Project Director, PUST, Pabna

Memo No. PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/23 Date: 24/07/2020

### e-Tender Notice (FY/2019-20)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works of "Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project" PUST, Pabna.

Serial No.	Tender ID	APP ID	Package No. & Invitation Ref. Number	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Tender closing date & time	Method
01	478561	158695	PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/23	Supply of Books and Journals for the Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project, PUST, FY 2020-2021.	23 July, 2020 and 18.00	31 August, 2020 and 12.00	OTM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Engineer Lt Colonel G M Azizur Rahman**  
afwc, psc (Retd)  
Project Director  
Pabna University of Science & Technology  
Development Project

GD-1190

# Housewife raped in Jashore, 1 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A housewife was raped allegedly by one of her neighbours in Jashore's Bagharpara upazila on Friday night.

Meanwhile, following a case filed by the victim, also wife an expatriate, with Bagharpara Police Station, law enforcers detained Shihab Uddin, 23, of Amuria village, the same night.

Officer in Charge of Bagharpara Police Station Syed Al-Mamun said the arrestee was produced before a court yesterday that sent him to jail.

According to the case statement, since the victim's husband lives in abroad, Shihab had been stalking her for long. As a sequel, finding the victim alone at home the culprit entered her house around 7:00pm on Friday, raped her forcibly and fled the scene, police said.