

EFFECT OF JAMUNA EROSION

Two unions shrinking fast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Solimabad and Doptior unions under Nagarpur upazila of Tangail are gradually shrinking every year due to erosion by the Jamuna river.

Thousands of dwellings, vast tracts of croplands and numerous establishments including educational institutions were already devoured by the river in the last one decade, locals said.

Many people have been made homeless during the period due to erosion by the river, they said.

Over 200 dwelling houses, vast tracks of croplands and two primary schools were devoured by the river only in Solimabad union in July this year.

During a visit to the area last year, the deputy minister of water resources ministry as well as local lawmaker had assured locals of taking immediate steps to check the erosion but nothing was done in this regard later, said

Mohammad Ali, a resident of Solimabad.

With floodwater receding, the river started devouring houses, croplands and different other structures, said another resident Motiur Rahman of Doptior.

The both affected farmers expressed their frustration saying that the river is approaching towards their homesteads and they are seeing no hope to survive.

Ram Krishna Saha, a rights activist in Nagarpur, said numerous dwelling houses, a primary school and an ancient market in Doptior union are facing erosion threat.

He added that many erosion-hit people have taken shelter on the school. If the school goes into the river, the erosion victims will lose the temporary shelter too.

Although the Water Development Board (WDB) has taken a project to construct embankment in Sadar upazila of Tangail and Chowhali upazila in Sirajganj, no steps are taken to save Nagarpur from erosion, said Ram

Krishna.

On the other hand, people from all walks of life in Solimabad and Doptior formed a human chain and held a rally beside the river in Nishcintapur area last week, demanding to construct an embankment in the area to save the localities from erosion.

Harun-or-Rashid, 70, of Nishcintapur in Doptior, said most part of his ancestral house was devoured by the river a few days ago. Now he along with his family members is planning to leave the area for an unknown destination.

Tangail WDB Executive Engineer Sirajul Islam in a recent interview with a private television channel said several unions including Solimabad and Doptior in Nagarpur upazila are on the way to disappear due to the erosion by the Jamuna.

They have already made a project to save the unions from erosion and sent it to the ministry concerned for approval, said the engineer.



Local people in Solimabad and Doptior unions of Tangail's Nagarpur upazila formed a human chain beside the Jamuna river in Nishcintapur area last week, demanding to construct an embankment in the area to save the localities from erosion.

PHOTO: STAR

WHEAT AND MAIZE RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN DINAJPUR

Sharp fall in seed production feared due to land crisis

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Production of wheat and maize seeds at Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute (BWMRI) in Dinajpur is likely to fall drastically this year.

A sudden decision to reduce land allocation for the institute would apparently lead to the situation, said officials at BWMRI, an organisation that has earned trust of farmers for its high quality seeds of wheat and maize.

A letter from Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), conveying their decision to reduce land allocation for the institute, reached the BWMRI authorities early this month, they also said.

According to the letter, the current land allocation has been reduced to 33.06 acres from the previous allocation of 64.61 acres at different sub-centres of BWMRI.

Last year, BWMRI produced 92.13 tonnes of wheat and 4.05 tonnes of maize seeds on 64.61 acres of land at the sub-centres in Gazipur, Jashore, Jamalpur, Rajshahi and Hathazari.

The decision came at a time when

they were trying to increase their production capacity of both the seeds in line with the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as well as growing demands in the country -- presently 15,000 tonnes per year altogether, said BWMRI officials.

Last year, domestic production of maize was 54.03 lakh tonnes from 5.54 lakh hectares of land, while wheat production in the same year was 12 lakh tonnes from 3.50 lakh hectares of land.

A senior scientist at BWMRI said both research and production of seeds will be affected due to the reduction of land for the institute and it might not be possible to produce even 25 tonnes of seeds this year, as the land allocated to the institute is mostly infertile.

Under the circumstances, BWMRI is desperately looking for ways to get more land for the continuation of its research as well as for its targeted increase in production of seeds, he also said.

Within a few years of its inception in 2017, in Noshipur village of Dinajpur Sadar upazila, BWMRI so far developed 20 wheat and maize

varieties that are tolerant to salinity, heat, flood and blast disease. The seeds produced at the institute are highly popular among farmers for their good quality.

BWMRI Director General (DG) Israil Hossain during a workshop on November 7 informed Mezbahul Islam, secretary to agriculture ministry, of the challenges and impediments that lie ahead for the institute due to the recent curtail of land allocation as well as the poor quality of the allocated land.

As a means to resolve the situation, the DG also requested the agriculture secretary to allocate 250 acres of land for BWMRI at two nearby organisations -- Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) and Setabganj Sugar Mills.

Contacted, Israil Hossain said unless the land issue is resolved, their wheat and maize seeds production will decline in 2020-21 season.

This correspondent was unable to reach BARI Director General Nazirul Islam for his comments over the issue despite making multiple calls on his cell phone.

'Save dwellings, farmlands'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

People of several villages in Sadar upazila yesterday urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to save their dwellings and croplands from severe waterlogging for years.

They raised the demand at a press conference at Mymensingh Press Club.

Speakers at the programme alleged that due to fish farming in 'Gajaria Beel', a local waterbody under Char Ishwardia union, by a vested quarter for nearly 25 years, the flows of water through different channels to other waterbodies have been blocked, resulting severe waterlogging in nearby villages.

Over 15,000 inhabitants of Char Haripur and its adjacent villages under Char Ishwardia union have to count huge loss this year as Aman paddy on some 1,000 acre and vast tract of vegetable field went under water due to the situation, they said.

Body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police recovered the decomposed body of a woman from inside a tea garden under Rahimpur union in Kamalganj upazila on Friday night.

The identity of the victim, aged around 25, could not be known as of filing this report yesterday evening.

Sitansha Karmakar, member of Rahimpur Union Parishad (UP), said tea workers first smelled a bad odour inside Deorachhara Tea Garden and spotted the decomposed of a woman.

Officer in Charge of Kamalganj Police Station Arifur Rahman said, being informed, they went to the spot and recovered the body.



A worker passing busy time making quilt at a shop in Dinajpur's Phulbari upazila. The demand of the item sees rise with the arrival of winter in the northern region of the country.

PHOTO: STAR



Mentally challenged widow Baulo Bala at her house near Shialkhowa Bazar in Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila. She has been cheated in name of exchanging land.

PHOTO: STAR

Mentally challenged widow cheated in name of exchanging land

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A mentally challenged widow has been cheated in the name of exchanging land in Kaliganj upazila of the district. Hailing from Shialkhowa Bazar area, Baulo Bala, 48, wife of late Gouranga Chandra, is now crying for justice.

"Two years ago, Shafiqul Islam Chan tactfully exchanged his 20 decimals of land worth Tk 1.5 lakh with mentally challenged widow Bala whose land's current market price is Tk 50 lakh," said the latter's brother Sunil Chandra, adding that his sister's this 20-decimal land is situated near Shialkhowa Bazar in the upazila he possessed it by giving his low-cost land through registry.

Last week, Sunil lodged a written complaint with the deputy commissioner (DC) and upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) seeking justice.

Family members and locals said as Bulo Bala is mentally challenged, her four brothers have given her 27 decimals of land adjacent to Shialkhowa Bazar. Its current market value is more than half a crore taka.

Bala's eldest son Domashu Chandra died in a road accident nine years ago. Her husband Gouranga died eight years ago. She lives with his youngest son Madhav Chandra. Madhav Chandra is also mentally challenged. Her such mental condition has left her dependent on her brothers.

Recently, Shafiqul, 51, son of Roich

Uddin of Shialkhowa area in Chalbala union, claimed Bala's land as his own land and showed the concession agreement on it.

Later, Bala's brother Sunil Chandra lodged a written complaint to the authorities concerned including the DC and UNO seeking cancellation of the agreement. He also urged the authorities to take steps against Shafiqul.

Sunil Chandra said Shafiqul is trying to grab Bala's land along the road adjacent to the market. There are no rules for selling or exchanging assets for a mentally challenged person.

He demanded justice for Bala. Local union parishad (UP) member Sabed Ali said mentally challenged Bala and his son Madhav Chandra get monthly disability allowance.

"I don't understand how the land of the mentally challenged has changed. Bala has been cheated," said the UP member.

Contacted, Shafiqul claimed ownership of the land on the basis of concession agreement but declined to make any comment on how the agreement was made. Upazila Sub-Registrar Paritosh Chakraborty said this could happen to Bala as her disability card was not shown. Legal action will be taken in this regard soon.

UNO Rabiul Hasan said they will take immediate steps in this regard after investigation.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Manikganj PWD Division
Manikganj
www.pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 905

Date: 12/11/2020

e-Tender Notice-e-GP Tender (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Reference No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Opening date & time
1	513582, Office of the ACE, vide his Memo No. 659 dt: 08/11/20	Remaining work with beautification of 5 (five) storied hospital building with 10 (ten) storied foundation in/c civil, sanitary, internal electrification & underground water reservoir under the project of Establishment of Colonel Malek Medical College & 500 Bedded Hospital at Manikganj.	14-Dec-2020 16:00	15-Dec-2020 11:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies 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 e-GP registered bank's branches within due time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) or (email: ee_manik@pwd.gov.bd) and call to 02-7710401. Interested person can communicate with the understanding during office hours.

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GD-1820

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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www.lged.gov.bdশেখ হাসিনার মুনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. LGED/UE/Kaptai/PEDP4/2020-21/425

Date: 12/11/2020

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2020-2021 (OTM/LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following:

Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No. & name of work	Date & time of tender publishing	Last dt & time of tender submission & opening	Procurement method
01	453562	e-Tender/PEDP4/RMT/KAP/2019-2020/W17.00894 & Major Maintenance of Rajkhali Refiuzi Para GPS & Paschim Kodala Community GPS under PEDP4	15/11/2020 10.00	30/11/2020 14.00 or amendment date	OTM
02	510012	e-Tender/PEDP4/RMT/KAP/2019-2020/W2.01941 & Construction of Add. Classroom of Agunia Chara Reg. GPS under PEDP4	15/11/2020 10.00	30/11/2020 14.00 or amendment date	OTM
03	510173	egp/Rev/Kaptai/rm/20-21/w-01 & Maintenance of Raikhali Union Parishad Bhaban under Kaptai Upazila, Dist- Rangamati.	15/11/2020 10.00	30/11/2020 14.00 or amendment date	LTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for last selling/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 guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1821