Continuous Meghna erosion threatens important places in Chandpur town

From Shirin Akhter

CHANDPUR, July 24: Fresh erosion of the mighty river, Meghna, started on the July 21, has again threatened the existence of century old Chandpur main railway station, IWTA terminal, launch and Steamerghat and other important institutions

Chandpur town stands on the eastern bank of the mighty river Meghna. It is the second riverport and important commercial centre of the country. The district town is divided by the river Dakatia which is the tributary of the Meghna. The popular,

Natur bazar stands on the north and Puran bazar stands on the south of the river Dakatia. Beside, the town stands on the confluence of the river Meghna and Padma. Erosion of the river Meghna is not a new phenomena but it is continuous for a long

The erosion of the river Meghna started from the early period of Pakistan. After independence the government of Bangladesh has given emphasis on the problem. Government had undertaken a scheme at a cost of Tk.five crore in 1972. As per scheme, 23,100 feet area at Puran bazar and Natun bazar were proposed to the protected by use of boulders.

When erosion started seriously in 1947 another scheme was taken up at a cost of Tk 41 crore. According to the scheme three "groyanes" and a dam from Chandpur to Chirarchar were proposed to be constructed. Only one groyane was constructed at Puran bazar side and the others remained incomplete. The scheme was supposed to be completed by 1979 but ultimately if never was completed. Chandpur town was in 1988. Then government Meghna. had constituted a national committee to formulate another scheme:

The national committee submitted its report in 1989 and suggested to dump the riverbank with cement blocks at a cost of Tk two hundred fifteen crore. As per the scheme, 21 inches, 18 inches and 16 inches three categories of blocks were made and dumped along the bank of the river. As a result 2 lakh 53 thousand cement blocks were dumped at a cost of Tk 12 crore and 5 thousand 'geo textile' bags with sands placed in the affected area. The rest of the scheme could not be implemented due to fund constraints. In another scheme named "Meghna survey" was started by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

After surveying the Meghna from Chandpur to Bhairab, the committee submitted a report in 1993 and suggested to implement the scheme at a cost of Tk 215 crore. The scheme was proposed to start work in 1994. The scheme also failed due to non availability of fund. From 1991 the work of Chandpur town protection scheme was progressing very slowly.

Every year BWDB dumped huge quantity blocks for maintenance work. Erosion. more or less, was continuing every year.

This year erosion first started in May but no step was taken at that time by BWDB to check the erosion in time except dumping of a few blocks. Every year a large area, huge properties are

33 candidates

could not sit

for HSC exam



CHANDPUR: Rail lines, electric poles and houses of Chandpur rail station are being dismantled to save them from the erosion of Meghna. - Star photo



again threatened by erosion CHANDPUR: Blocks of concrete are being dumped by BWDB in a bid to thwart erosion of — Star photo



'HANDPUR: Chandpur fish market near rail station was devoured by the river - Star photo Meghna.

damaged by the erosion of Meghna. There are about 250 large fish firms at railway

The fish market was constructed by IWTA. These fish firms are dealers in different kinds of fish. They supply fish specially hilsa in different parts of the country.

Quality fish like hilsa, common carps, are also exported from this centre. Every, year huge foreign exchange are earned by exporting a large quantities of fish from this market. So far about five hundred feet wide town protection embankment have already been eroded. People

According to District

Relief and Rehabilitation

Officer (DRRO) Md Thohidul

Alam. nearly 1.90 lakh fami-

lies are affected by the flood.

While more than nine lakh

people have become flood

Brahmanbaria district are af-

fected by flood. Of them. 20

standing crops like Aus.

Aman, jute and vegetables on

about 57 thousand acres of

land are completely dam-

aged and crops on 30 thou-

unions are badly affected.

A total of 88 unions of

According to DRR office.

victims.

panicked by the situation are busy in dismentalling their business firms. If the erosion continues the entire railway colony, railway office, railway godown, oil depots will be eroded shortly. The people of Charidpur urge the authority to take a scheme on permanent basis and to check the

Our correspondent from Sirajganj reports: Water borne diseases including diarrhoea have broken out in different parts of the flood affected region. Meanwhile, erosion of river Jamuna have takén a serious turn rendering 4.000 families of Baugan,

erosion of the Meghna.

Addittabari villages homeless in last 24 hours till Saturday.

Our correspondent from Sherpur adds: Suffering of about three lakh flood victims on western side of Brahmaputra Flood Control embankment mounted with the continuous downpour and gusty wind.

Standing crops on 1346 square km of land have been totally or partially damaged while a 16 km portion of flood control embankment has been washed away. A total of 250 bridge and culverts and 105 educational institutes have been damaged by the flood.

Water level in Titas gradually, rising

Flood in B'baria worsens

from Patuakhali PATUAKHALI, July 24 BRAHMANBARIA. July 24 The overall flood situation in Thirty-three examinees of Amtali Degree College, Barall seven thanas of Brahmanguna, could not sit for their laria district are gradually ongoing HSC Examinations aggravating with the rise of reports UNB. water in the river Titas and its tributaries in the district. It is alleged that due to ir Till reporting. Titas was regularities in admission and

flowing 64.5 cm above the registration the examination danger level on Monday forms of the students were Onrush of water from cancelled by the Board of Indian hills across the bor-Secondary and Higher Sec der has caused flood in the ondary Education, Jessore. bordering Brahmanbaria dis-

As a result, 33 students who duly filled up their examination forms were not issued admit cards.

The students blamed the college authority for their inaction to solve the problem arising out of their admission. Due to this, they said, they will also miss the chance of appearing at the examinations to be held next year.

They urged the concerned authorities to probe into matter and take necessary steps so that they can sit for the next year's HSC examinations.

From Our Correspondent

sand acres of lands are partially damaged, Two cattleheads were washed away.

So far 12 persons have drowned in several flood related incidents in the district. More than 1.100 dwellings are totally damaged while 5300 dwellings are partially damaged.

More than 69 educational institutions including 51 in Nasirnagar thana were damaged totally or partially.

It is learnt, one kilometre of flood protection embank? ment and 132 kilometres of link roads of the district are marooned while 295 km embankments and 595 km link road were eruded partially.

Road communication between Brahmanbaria district town and Nasirnagar thana has been disrupted. At least

three bridges and culverts collapsed and 26 others were damaged partially According to reliable sources telecommunication of Nasirnagar Sarail, Ashugani

Brahmanbaria, Kasba, Kuti,

Akhaura. Banchharampur and

On the other hand, flood water has also entered in Brahmanbaria pourashava area. A group of dishonest dealers are hoarding the essential commodities. As a

Rasullabad station were dis-

rupted by flood. The only

OTD line of all telephone

stations of the district was in

eight thousand people of

Shahzadapur, Niamatpur and

Dhawria village were thrown

in disarray as flood water iso-

lated the villages by snapping

the Shahzadapur-Wobaidulla

It is informed that about

operation.

result the price of almost all essentials are going up. Rice. oil, pulse, wheat, flour, eggs and milk are being sold at higher prices. There are also shortages

of fodders and firewood in the flood affected areas. Deputy Commissioner Md

Abdul Motin has visited the flood affected areas and distributed Taka 38 thousands and 40 MTs of wheat.

Flood waters start receding, hundreds attacked by diarrhoea

NETROKONA, July 24: Diarrhoea has broken out allover the district following significant improvement in

the overall flood situation. The district-Civil Surgeon Dr Abdur Razzak told BSS local correspondent that nearly 1000 flood affected people had already been attacked with the disease in all the ten thanas of the district so far.

"One Anwara, aged 40 vears died of diarrhoea at Barhatta thana hospital recently," he said adding that 36 medical teams were working round the clock in the affected areas to contain the disease.

Meanwhile, flood affected people were seen leaving their shelters for own houses as the flood water receded from most of the submerged areas.

Snake-bite claims one, 3 others drown in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, July 24: Four people died by drowning and from snake-bite in the district Saturday raising the flood-related death toll to 43, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

Officials confirmed only 15 deaths since the onslaught of current flooding started 10 days back.

Shahin 7 of Chandidasgati in sadar thana, and Badal 13 and Bablu, 17, of Kazipur thana were drowned while Shahidul, 30, of Hakmuria in sadar thana succumbed to snake-bite.

Meanwhile, the Jamuna devoured 500 houses in sadar, Kazipur and Shahjadpur thanas, rendering 2,500 people homeless during the last 24 hours, control room sources said.

Some 17,605 families have been rendered homeless by river erosion in the district in the past fortnight, it added.

Body of middle age woman found near river bank

From CHT Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, July 24 Khagrachhari Kotwali police recently recovered a body of a middle-aged woman while floating at Battali bank near Golabari of Changi river, six kilometre far from Khagrachhari district headquar-

The body was identified as of Mariyam Bibi by her relatives at Khagrachhari hospital morgue. Mariyam. 35, was the wife of Arman Ali, village Omarpur. Ultachhari in Dighinala thana of the district, police sources said.

Mariyam was drowned on July 4 in a boat capsize in Changi river along with 25 others, it was learnt.

Poor reception from Rangpur Radio station

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, July 24

People of this district can not listen to Rangpur Radio clearly since its implementa tion for poor reception. The concerned authority did not pay heed to the demand of increasing capacity of Rangpur Radio station, it was al leged by some regular listen-

The existing 10 kw transmitter of Rangpur Radio station has reportedly lost its efficiency long ago and nowa-days programmes broadcast from this station are hardly receivable in Gaibandha Kurigram, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts. The station best covers the Rangwar town and adjacent areas.

It is learnt that the National Economic Council approved a 10 kw transmitter Radio station before 1984 for each of the divisional town Rajshahi. Chittagong and Khulna and 20 kw transmitter for the Radio stations at Sylhet and Rangpur. Accordingly, a 20 kw transmitter in stalled at Rangpur and Sylhet and started broadcasting programmes. But after few months the 20 kw transmitter of Rangpur Radio stopped functioning following damage of its electronic equipment. An old 10 kw transmitter was replaced at Rangpur against 20 kw transmitter. Since then programmes broadcast from Rangpur Radio station could not be received clearly by the listeners of neighbouring districts of Rangpur.

The people of greater Rangpur district urged upon the concerned authority to enhance the capacity of Rangpur Radio station from 10 to 100 kw for smooth listening of the programmes.

Shifting of ghat suggested

Serious traffic jam may occur at N'bari ferry ghat

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 24: The roadthese three ghats are not following any serials issued to communication, between Dhaka and the northern disthe transports by themselves tricts might again be disand by violating the serial, rupted in case proper meathey are allowing boarding of sures are not immediately some vehicles on the ferries taken to remove traffic jam breaking the rule and thus crisis at Nagarbari ferry ghat. creating anarchy. Some are This was stated at a press reportedly taking advantage of the crisis prevailing in the conference held on Thursday organised by Shimul Biswas, ferry services which have Joint Secretary and Rafigul caused severe disruption in Islam, Labour Secretary, the road communication sec-Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan tor between Dhaka and

northern districts

Pabna District office of the The leaders further al-Truck Drivers Association. leged that the vehicles The leaders expressed owned by some influential concern over the existing sibusinessmen of different distuation as atleast 400 Dhaka tricts, are also being allowed bound trucks are stranded at to board the ferries breaking Nagarbari ferry ghat, while the serial. 200 others are kept stranded at Bera C&B crossing and The disruption of traffic about 150 more at Gachhpara, adjacent to Pabna town due to inadequate ferry

boarding on ferries at Aricha-Nagarbari ferry ghats, they said that the crisis was created due to rise in the waterlevel and strong current in the rivers Jamuna and Padma, continuous rise in the number of various types of alleged corruption by BIWTA transports as well as for introduction of direct road communication Chittagong. Closure of Sirajganj-Bhuapur ferry service, and lack of proper traffic control system in Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulatdia ferry ghats are also responsible for of BIWTA and BIWTC in all the disruption of the service.

The labour leaders demanded immediate construction of an alternative ferry ghat at Natibpur and

shift the existing ferryghat. They also urged the authority to remove corruption in issuing and maintaining serial. A new serial management body should be formed comprising representatives of district administration. police administration, BRTA and road transport workers'.

Appointment of regular and permanent highway traffic police and traffic control system was also raised in the conference.

They also urged to increase the number of ferries in these three ghats.

The vehicles which could not board the ferries even 12 hours after issuing 'serials', be paid compensative for the losses they would incur they maintained.

The labour leaders warned that they would be compelled to take strong action programme in case the concerned authorities fail to fulfil their demands and normalise the unprecedented traffic jam created in the ferry

Even the coaches are taking three to four hours more than usually needed time in reaching Dhaka from the northern districts.

Poor condition of Faridpur town hospital

From Our Correspondent beds. But it is found from the

In Gaibandha

Post-flood rehabilitation

activities geared up

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA. July 24: ganisation also distributed

Together with government chira-gur among some of the

FARIDPUR, July 24: Faridpur General Hospital located in the heart of the town is beset with manifold problems causing untold sufferings to the patients.

Sramik Federation in the

services, extremely bad con-

dition of the pontoons at

Nagarbari ghat and also due

to poor management by the

authorities and wide-spread

and BIWTC authorities at all

the three ghats at Aricha,

Daulatdia and Nagarbari caus-

ing grave inconveniences to

the transports, their owners

ers alleged that the officials

The transport labour lead-

and employees.

Patients from far-flung areas of the district come to the hospital for better treatment but they have to go back disappointed as they find no scope for admission to the hospital because of the shortage of seats.

The hospital has only 100 beds of which 20 are paying beds, four are cabin-beds and

initiative local political al-

liances. NGOs, voluntary or-

relief activities in flood rav-

cash Taka six lakh 50 thou-

sand, 450 tops of wheat, 250

tons of rice, 400 tims of bis-

cuit and 2000 pieces of saree

and lungi which were dis-

tributed among the flood vic-

tims in different areas.

Although this is very scanty

compared to the heavy de-

Beside. 200 tons of whea

were sanctioned under test

relief activities in differen

flood affected thanas

Agriculture Ministry allocated

Taka two lakh 14 thousand

for procuring seeds and fer-

tilizer that will be distributed

among the small and

marginal farmers. Agriculture

extension department

erected seed bed on 23 acres

of land for the distribution

among the larmers under

post flood rehabilitation pro-

Agriculture Development

Corporation, meanwhile,

started distribution of three

and half tons of aman seeds

among the farmers. The dev-

astation flood washed away

standing crops together with

aman seedlings of vast areas

under Sunderganj

Sadullapur, Gaibandha sadar

Fulchari and Shaghata thanas.

distributed bread, chira-gur

among the flood victims. 'JA-

AT-N', a local voluntary or-

On the other hand, BRAC

Bangladesh

gramme in the district.

aged Gaibandha district.

ganisations have geared up

Government sanctioned

admission register of the hospital that every day 250 patients are treated in the hospital on an average. The excess of 150 patients are found lying on the floor or verandah and in the space between two beds.

Even the affluent section of the patients do not get admission either to the cabin-seats, or paying seats as they are always occupied by the patients. Beside, many patients needing immediate medicare are refused admisthe rest seventy-six are free sion on the ground of non-

flood victims during the pick

hours of flood. Gaibandha

Rotary Club allocated Tk.

45,000 for the flood victims

as well. They also distributed

cooked food, chira-gur, rice,

salt in different remote areas.

Local cultural organisation

Abahani Gaibandha dis-

tributed bread, oral saline,

water purifying tablets and

beaching powders among the

Besides, the local units of

political parties, BNP, Awami

League, Jatiya Party, Jamaate-

Islami Gano Forum dis-

tributed relief materials

among the flood victims after

visiting the affected areas.

flood victims.

provided with beds or mosquito-nets. Owing to such an abnormal number of patients in excess of allotted seats, the patient do not get proper at-

tention from the doctors as

availability of accommodation.

The patients lying on the

floor or verandah are not

well as medical facilities. Bathrooms and latrines are not cleaned regularly and these emit obnoxious smell vitiating the total atmosphere of the hospital. Bed sheets, pillow covers and mosquitonets that are supplied to the

allotted seats are dirty. Beside, the food supplied to the patients are far below the standard. Moreover, water supplied to the patients contain high proportion of is full of iron causing intestinal

troubles. It is reported that only . outdoor patients get some medicines but the patients admitted in the hospital do not get any costly medicines from the hospital. They have to purchase medicines on emergency basis from the

market at an exorbitant Most of the patients seeking operation are refused admission to the hospital on different pleas and advised to take admission to the local clinics where the patients are operated upon by the hospital doctors themselves on payment of huge amount

of money, it was alleged. There is no separate eye ward in the hospital. As a result, eye patients suffer greatly, too.

Flood situation in Gaibandha improves

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, July 24:

Flood situation in Gaibandha district has improved although water remain stagnant in the low areas. Ghagot river is flowing one metre over danger mark. Some people are still waiting in different flood shelters of the

According to district Agriculture Department the flood 'destroyed crops and properties worth about Taka 32 crore. Public Health Engineering Deptt sunk 117 hand operated tubewells in flood affected areas to supply drinking water.



town.

BRCS distributes relief in Netrakona NETRAKONA. July :

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) Netrakona district unit has been conducting a relief programme in the flood hit areas of the district, reports BSS.

General secretary of Red Crescent Society, Netrakona district unit. Fazlur Rahman Khan said that under the programme 700 pieces of old clothing, 100 pieces of sarees, 200 pieces of lungees. 20 cartons of biscuits and 1400 pieces of soaps were distributed among the floodstricken people in Barhatta thana and Netrakona sadar thana during the last few

Road accident: Two killed KUSHTIA, July 24: At

least two persons were allegedly killed in a road accident on Thursday at Alampur on Kushtia-Jhenidah road, 🛦 reports BSS.

The accident occurred as a minibus and a truck collided head-on. Thirty passengers received injury eighteen of them were admitted to Kushtia general hospital.

The drivers of the bus and the truck are absconding. Police seized both the vehicles and registered a case in Kushtia police station.



A voluntary organisation recently arranged to give relief goods among the flood victims in Gaibandha - Star photo