

Stone lifting from Gowainghat quarries

River erosion apprehended along 15 Sylhet border villages

From Iqbal Siddiquee



Protect 15 riverside border villages

Unabated lifting of stones from the flood control embankments attached to the stone quarries at Jaflong may cause serious river erosion threatening at least 15 villages.

— Star photo

SYLHET, Apr 17: Unabated collection of stones from quarries alongside the two flood control embankments in Gowainghat thanas might cause a serious river bank erosion in the areas.

Initiatives by the local administration, Water Development Board (WDB) officials, BDR personnel, even by the local MP yielded no effective result. None could stop unscrupulous people from doing such irregularities.

Official sources informed The Daily Star that with a view to protecting the areas from recurring floods and erosion, WDB had constructed about 27,000 metres long embankment on both sides of the Plain river from Gowainghat to Balaghat at an expenditure of Taka 80 lakh in 1981. But some organised gangs, with the help of poor labourers of the locality, were collecting stones from the quarries under the very nose of administration, endangering the embankments.

Alarming the lands in Bangladesh territory were disappearing into the rivers which were running alongside the borders. A vast tract of land had already gone under the grip of the Indian territory.

A number of people living in the areas said that Sangram Pukh, a locality of Khasia tribes and some other villages including a tea garden might go into the gorge of the river at any time.

The WDB officials said that, a number of general diaries (GDs) were registered with the local police station. Several times the matter was discussed with BDR, but the initiatives yielded no result. BDR men posted at the nearby border outposts demarcated some areas and clamped some temporary bamboo posts for protecting the areas. But these also could not be strictly maintained, local people alleged. The law enforcing people also expressed their inability to catch the floating people, most of whom were involved with the practice.

Some experts said that the river was widening day by day due to indiscriminate lifting of stones and earth. It might cause devastation in 10 to 15 villages.

Stones from over 200 metres area of Dauki's right side embankment were already being lifted away, threatening the nearby villages.

Immediate steps should be taken to protect the vast river banks as well as the adjacent areas located in the important border region.

Another UNB report says: Despite having alternative sources, earth is illegally being collected from small hills for the reconstruction works of Sylhet-Tamabil road causing extensive damage to forest resources.

Locals alleged that the concerned construction companies are collecting huge earth from hillocks at Darbostor Bichnatek, Tengra, Noakhel, Hemu, Sampur, Patelpur, Daiki, Tupipahar, Jaflong and Naljuri through middlemen.

These middlemen are influencing the small hill owners and in some cases are forcing them to sell earth from their hillocks, giving the area a deserted look.

As per the country's existing law, one needs permission from the government for cutting any small hill, a rule is hardly seen to be practised.

When contacted officials of the construction companies said there is no need to take permission as the soil is being used for the development of the country.

But the locals said the contractors have scopes to collect earth from alternatives sources as there is a good number of canals, beels and small rivers alongside the road which are being silted up.

The main rivers and canals of the region include Sari, Kapna, Piyain, Lain Parakhali, Borogang, Damri and Hemu, and they have several tributaries too.

Ershad says

AL Govt didn't fulfil election pledges

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Apr 17: Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad said that four opposition parties including JP are now united to oust this autocratic and inefficient Awami League Government as they are now serving the interest of India by destroying jute, hides and skin industries and the entire education system.

Ershad claimed that US President Clinton's recent visit to Bangladesh was a painful incident for the nation as he availed to go to Savar National Mausoleum on the pretext of safety.

Ershad also alleged that Awami League government did not fulfill election pledges.

He said this while addressing two different public rallies at 'Wapda Intersection Madrasa' premises of Sreepur and Katakhal bazar premises of Sadar Upazila on Saturday noon. Two different rallies were presided over by Moshir Rahman Nannu and Sawkat Hossain respectively.

Ershad also introduced JP district unit secretary Advocate Hasan Seraj Suja in the meetings as the MP candidate for the coming election.

The rallies were also addressed, among others, by JP Secretary General Nazim Rahman Manzur, local JP leader Khan Ziaul Huq, Advocate Hasan Seraj Suja, Abu Bakar Siddique, Advocate Moayuddin, Advocate Rokonzaman, Advocate Hashem Ali, M Fateh Ali Tipu, Sardar Abdur Rashid and Khan Rabiul Huq Mithu.

UNB from Sathkira says: Jatiya Party Chairman has said the fall of Awami League government is now only a matter of time.

Addressing a public meeting at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park in Sathkira on Sunday the former President blasted the "inept and corrupt" government and said there was no alternative to its ouster for the sake of the country.

The government of Sheikh Hasina didn't realise a single commitment that it promised before the election. That's why we withdrew support from the government," he told the rally.

It was also addressed by JP secretary general Nazim Rahman Manzur, Syeda Razia Fayeze, S M Salahuddin, Advocate Abdur Rahim and Abdur Mazid with Abdus Salam Sardar presiding.

Bid to curb copying in upcoming HSC exams

BAGERHAT, Apr 17: In a bid to curb copying in the upcoming HSC examinations, Jessore Education Board has taken an initiative to shift the examinees of one centre to another from this year, reports to UNB.

Under the novel programme, examinees of a designated centre will have to sit for examination in a distant centre.

Jessore Board's Controller of Examinations ABM Sattar told that all preparations have been completed in this regard.

"We have already requested the Deputy Commissioners of 16 districts under the board to take necessary steps for implementing the programme," he said.

About 100,000 candidates in 198 centres under Jessore Education Board will take part in this year's HSC exam, due to start from April 27.

Meanwhile, the Board has cancelled two HSC examination centres — Barisal Bonmoy Hazrat Ali Khalil College centre and Kushtia Khater Ali College centre — identifying them as most vulnerable. Examinees of the two centres will now have to sit for examination at Barisal BM College and Kushtia Government College respectively.

The authorities also identified another 15 centres as vulnerable. Some 75 teams have been formed to monitor the vulnerable centres during the upcoming examinations. The teams will also pay surprise visits to other centres.

The board authorities had special meeting with DCs and college principals in Khulna, Jessore and Kushtia for holding the examinations peacefully. Another such meeting is due on April 17 at Barisal.

Problem in land survey work in Moulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Apr 17: Land owners of Moulvi Bazar Sadar Upozila have been suffering a lot due to absence of Assistant Commissioner of Land as land survey is going on in different villages.

It is learnt that AC (Land) of the upozila was transferred to Sylhet district a few months back. A new AC (Land) was appointed, but within a few days he was also transferred due to unknown reason. Since then the post of AC (Land) has been lying vacant.

Land survey workers are allegedly disturbing the land owners. In some cases, the survey workers refused to record the land even after showing proper documents. In some cases the workers are also recording the land with fake documents, it is widely alleged.

In such a situation, the suffering people go to the AC (Land) office to solve their documentary problems of land. But due to absence of AC (Land), employees of the office fail to serve them. Grabbing this opportunity unscrupulous people with the help of Land Survey workers have been recording the land according to their whim. As a result genuine land owners have been falling in traps. In some cases collision is being occurred on the issue of land recorded by the land survey employees.

Sadar Upozila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) is now looking after the office of AC (Land). As UNO is a busy administration of the upozila, he has little scope to give sufficient time for AC

(Land) matters. On the other hand, is Moulvi Bazar Sadar Upozila, AC (Land) office is about four kilometres away from the Upozila Nirbahi Officer's office. So it is very tough for him to look after two offices in two separate places.

People of Sadar Upozila have demanded immediate appointment of AC (Land) here for their greater interest.

Japanese envoy visits Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Apr 17: Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh Kazuyoshi Urabe passed a busy day on Saturday here visiting activities of FPAB and calling on chairman of CHTRC and DC of the district, reports BSS.

The Japanese envoy who was here on a day-long visit expressed his satisfaction. He visited a clinic in the town and urban family planning services in slums and the areas run by the Rangamati unit of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), financed by the Japanese government.

Earlier, Kazuyoshi Urabe carried out a discussion with the executives of Rangamati unit of FPAB at its office on the family planning network.

The visiting Japanese envoy called on the chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Jyotindra Bodhipriyo Larma

News snaps

Rally at Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Apr 17: A grand rally of the cooperative and BRDB workers was held on Saturday at Rajbari ground to encourage the landmark programme — 'One Khamar', reports BSS.

Food minister Amir Hossain Amu, political adviser to the Prime Minister Dr SA Malek, State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives Advocate Rahmat Ali, Afsaruddin Ahmed MP, Ahsanullah Mastar, Aktharuzzaman, Meher Afroze Chumki, Secretary of the Rural Development and Cooperatives Amlangshu Sen, DG of BRDB Nazrul Islam, Registrar Shamsul Alam, president of Gazipur district Awami League AKM Mozammel Huq and general secretary advocate Azmatullah Khan addressed the rally. Amu said that the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken up the programme 'One household — One Khamar' to fight hunger and poverty.

Priority on poverty alleviation

LOHAJONG (Munsiganj), Apr 17: Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil on Saturday said the main target of all development programmes of the present government is to help eradicate poverty, reports BSS.

He was addressing a meeting marking the cattle distribution programme, organised by a socio-cultural organisation Agrasar Bikrampur at Lohajong Thana Complex ground here. Segupta Yasmin MP, Nuhul Alam Lenin, Enamul Haque Chowdhury, Abul Basher and Dali Moazzem Husain also spoke at the meeting which was presided over by Geasuddin Khan. The Commerce Minister called upon the affluent people to come forward to supplement the government's anti-poverty programmes.

Role of students lauded

RANGPUR, Apr 17: Gano Forum Chief Dr Kamal Hossain addressed a workers' rally at Rangpur Zilla Hall on Saturday morning, reports BSS.

Kamal Hossain lauded the role of the student community of the country during '52 language movement', '69 mass upsurge and various similar movements since liberation. He pointed out that the achievement of 21st February for becoming a language day across the world was possible because of relentless movement of the student community. The meeting was presided over by Advocate Hamiduzzaman, president of Rangpur Gano Forum, attended by number of central Gano Forum leaders. Paying tributes to the student leaders and other professionals who laid down their lives in the movements for freeing country from clutches of fascists, Gano Forum Chief told that we want fair student politics and abhorred the on going one.

Workshop

TANGAIL, Apr 17: Speakers at a leadership appraisal workshop have stressed the need for taking local initiatives through participatory approach for overall community development of the cities of the country, reports BSS.

This two-day workshop was held on April 7 and 8 in the LGED auditorium at Tangail under the auspices of SINPA (Support for implementation of the national plans of action) and the Secondary City Development Project of non-government organisation RAYDOL with financial and technical assistance of the IHS of the Netherlands government. Former minister Abdul Mannan, MP and chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of LGED and cooperatives inaugurated the workshop. Presided over by Tangail Municipality Chairman Asaduzzaman Sabur, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Professor SHK Yusuf Zai and Syed Hasnuzzaman Loton, Secretary General of RADOL and national coordinator of SINPA.

Power link extension sought

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 17: Irrigation facilities through electrification can bring about 20,000 acres of the district, especially in Nawabganj, Nachol, Gomastapur and Bholahat thanas under cultivation during the winter season, reports BSS.

At present, only 10,000 acres are being cultivated with water supplied power pumps from the River Mohananda and from other beels and ponds. It may be mentioned here that for lack of electricity driven machine, thousands of acres cannot be properly cultivated. The lands, additional 10,000 acres may be brought under IRR and Boro cultivation at a very low cost if electricity connection is extended to these areas.

Shortage of doctors

PATUAKHALI, Apr 17: Lack of doctors and inadequate medicine supply to hospitals have brought the healthcare system to its knees, reports UNB.

According to competent sources, there is one doctor for 50,000 people and 62 posts of doctor, out of 89, in government hospitals have long been lying vacant. They said their repeated appeals to appoint doctors to 18 vacant posts, out of 27, in General Hospital here fell in the deaf ears. Of the vacant post, one is of senior consultant (pediatric), one of junior consultant, one of anesthetic, 10 of medical officer and five of assistant registrar. The officials said 30 posts, out of 48, are lying vacant in Galachipa, Kalapara, Baufal, Dashmina, Mirzaganj and Sadar thana health complexes. The 12 centres virtually have no doctors since their inception.

Rally at Panchagarh

PANCHAGRAH, Apr 17: A rally was held in observance of National Disaster Preparedness Day under the auspices of District Disaster Arrangement Committee (DDAC) here recently, reports BSS.

It was jointly led by deputy commissioner Mohammad Robiul Islam and police super AB Barua of the district. The rally was followed by a discussion.

Land tax realised

CHUADANGA, Apr 17: A total of Taka 29,52,317 Land Development Tax has been realised from the tenants of four thanas of Chuadanga district during the first seven months of the current financial year, till January 2000, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total amount Taka 12,06,183 have been realised from Chuadanga Sadar thana, Taka 7,36,359 from Alamdanga thana, Taka 6,43,361 from Damurhuda thana and Taka 3,66,414 from Jibannagar thana. The government has fixed up a target to realise Taka 81,50,411 Land Development Tax from the tenants of the four thanas during the current financial year.

Law and order discussed

SHERPUR, Apr 17: The members of Sherpur district branch of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission met Police Super Mesbahun Nabi and exchanged views on law and order in Sherpur, recently. The meeting lasted for about an hour, reports BSS.

The members of the Human Rights Commission expressed their satisfaction on prevailing law and order after the coming operation, but expressed concern over non-recovery of arms. District President of the Human Rights Commission M Abdur Rahman Lilu, veteran politician Robi Niogee, Secretary Advocate Pradip Dev Krishna, Laily Begum and Abdur Hakim Bablu were present in the exchange of views meeting.

Workshop in Shariatpur

SHARIATPUR, Apr 17: A day-long workshop organised by Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) concluded in the Zilla parishad auditorium here on April 5, reports BSS.

Officials of different BKB branches took part in the workshop.

Boy killed in road mishap

SAVAR, Apr 17: Loosening control over the steering, driver of a truck drove his vehicle on a roadside shop here on April 10 killing a boy and injuring five people, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Babu, 8 son of Mohammad Ali of the municipal area. The injured were admitted to Savar Thana Health Complex. Three of them were identified as Selim, 28, Makbul, 30, and Hasan, 28. Police said the accident occurred at Savar Bazaar Bus Stand at about 5pm. The truck was seized, but its driver and helpers managed to flee the scene. A case was filed in this connection.

Indian fisherman convicted

BAGERHAT, Apr 17: A court here on April 6 sentenced an Indian fisherman to three months rigorous imprisonment (RI) for intruding into Bangladesh territory, reports UNB.

The convict was identified as Sheikh Muhammad Ali Hossain of village Kakdeep in Kashinagar thana of Chhabish Paragan, West Bengal. According to prosecution, police arrested Hossain along with a mechanised boat and some fishing nets from the River Daratana in Sadar thana on March 27 this year. He later confessed to the police that he deliberately crossed the border for fishing in the river. After examining records and witnesses, the judge handed down the judgement.



Living with natural calamities

At least 27 persons were injured and hundreds of houses were damaged by nor'wester in Sirajganj Sadar, Kazipur, Raiganj, Ullapara, Shahjadpur and Chowhali thanas of Sirajganj district on Tuesday night. Photo shows an affected family of Hatchongacha under Sadar thana. The family members are passing days under the open sky.

— Star photo by Akhteruzzaman Bablu

Roads & Highways Department Tender Invitation Notice

- Tender notice number : 60 BRD of 1999-2000 year.
- Name of work : Various works under Barisal Road Division during 1999-2000 year (as per group list).
- Estimated money : As per group list.
- Security money : As per group list.
- Time for completion of work : As per group list.
- Eligibility of contractors to submit tender : As per group list.
- Offices in which tender schedule will be available : Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Barisal/Jhalakathi/Pirojpur/Barguna/Planning Division (PD), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, R&H, Road Sub-Division-1/2, Barisal/1st Zone Workshop Sub-Division, Barisal on all days except holidays during office hours. No tender form will be sold on the day of opening tender.
- Last date and time of selling tender schedule : 26-4-2000 till 5:00 pm.
- Offices of the officials in which tender will be received in sealed condition : Additional Chief Engineer, R&H, Barisal Zone, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, R&H, Barisal Road Circle, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, R&H, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle (PD), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka /Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Barisal/Jhalakathi/Pirojpur.
- Last date and time of receiving tender in sealed condition : 27-4-2000 at 12:45 PM.
- Date and time of filing tender in sealed condition : Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H Road Division, Barisal, 4-5-2000 at 11:00 AM.

Group No	Name of work and location	Estimated money	Security money	Time for completion of work	Head of expenditure	Eligibility of contractors to submit tender
1 (one)	Work of creeper palisading on 31st (part) and 32nd (part) KM of Bhurghata Road under Barisal Road Division during 1999-2000 fiscal year.	Tk 3,43,417/-	6,868/-	25 (twenty-five) days	168-Road, Bridge, Kheyaghat	'A' to 'C' class of general category of Roads & Highways Department, 'D' class of general category of Barisal Road Circle and 'E' class of enlisted contractors of Barisal Road Division
2 (two)	Protection work by creeper to save the road embankment on 1st (part) and 2nd (part) KM of Mahilara-Chhaygram-Paisarhat Road under Barisal Road Division during 1999-2000 year.	Tk 5,99,103/-	11,982/-	35 (thirty-five) days	266-Development	-Do-
3 (three)	Work of creeper palisading on 7th KM of Gourandi-Agoiljhar-Kotalipara-Gopalganj Road under Barisal Road Division during year 1999-2000.	Tk 2,87,177/-	5,744/-	20 (twenty) days	-Do-	-Do-
4 (four)	Work of repairing of damaged railing of overbridge 31st, 35th, 37th, 45th and 48th KM of Barisal-Bhurghata Road under Barisal Road Division during 1999-2000 year.	Tk 80,880/-	1,618/-	30 (thirty) days	168-Road, Bridge and Kheyaghat	'A' to 'C' class of general category of Roads & Highways Department, 'D' class of general category of Barisal Road Circle, 'E' class of enlisted contractors of Barisal Road Division.
5 (five)	Work of machining and spare parts for repairing of Road Marshal Roller No-3 engine overhauling including repairing of gear box and clutch under Barisal Road Division during 1999-2000 year.	Tk 73,370/-	1,467/-	20 (twenty) days	-Do-	-Do-
6 (six)	Work of supply of spare parts as per sample for China road roller under Barisal Road Division during the year 1999-2000.	Tk 72,800/-	1,456/-	-Do-	-Do-	-Do-
7 (seven)	Machining and spare parts for JM roller No-1 under Barisal Road Division during year 1999-2000.	Tk 73,370/-	1,467/-	20 (twenty) days	-Do-	-Do-
8 (eight)	Supply of spare parts for chipper bush dry pinium including gear box for Road Marshal Roller No-3 and related repairing work under Barisal Road Division during the year 1999-2000.	Tk 72,800/-	1,456/-	-Do-	-Do-	-Do-
9 (nine)	Making summer liveries for class IV employees of Barisal Zone, Circle and Divisions and Sub-Division-1, Barisal under Barisal Road Division during the year 1999-2000 year.	Tk 2,44,325/-	4,887/-	30 (thirty) days	-Do-	-Do-

NB: a) Groups No 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 & 12 will not be received in Barisal Zone, Barisal and Superintending Engineer, R&H, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle.
b) Groups No 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 will not be received in Jhalakathi Division and Pirojpur Division.
Md Harunur Rashid
Executive Engineer, R&H,
Barisal Road Division.