

National



(L) Erosion takes alarming turn in Rajshahi city with the water level in the Padma rising. The photograph was taken from Dargapara area last week. (R) Workers dump concrete blocks along erosion-hit embankment of Chandpur Irrigation Project in Chandpur district.

-Star photo

Erosion panic in Bogra, Barisal, Nilphamari

BOGRA, July 26: Not only the marginal farmers, but also the swell-off families living in the vicinity of the River Jamuna fear for the future because of unabated erosion by the river, reports UNB.

Every year hundreds of families living in villages alongside the mighty river lose their homes and start life anew the following year and then again fall prey to the riverbank erosion.

With most people unable to settle in safer places, the vicious cycle continues.

At least 10 villages

Vikenpara, Moheshpara, Mohabotpara, Chokainagar, Khabalia in Teknai Chukainagar union and Amtaif, Burbastulpara, Akherpara, Khatianpara and Balupara in Pakullia union in Sonatala upazila went into the gorge of the river this season.

Over 6,000 people of 1,000 families of the villages were rendered homeless and they have taken shelter on the nearby flood protection embankment only to live a subhuman life.

No initiative has been taken to protect the area from the river

erosion and repeated appeals of the people to the government to construct a groyne embankment in the area fell into the deaf ears.

The situation in Barisal district is equally grim, where the river Kirtankhola engulfed 14 houses and eight shops leaving 22 families homeless on July 20.

In Nilphamari district, erosion by the rain-swollen Teesta has taken a severe turn, displacing hundreds of people.

Ten unions East Chhatna, Kaghagharibari, Tepakharibari, Goyabari, Khalisha Chapani and Jhongachh Chapani in Dimla

upazila, and Daowabari, Goalmodda, Shoulmari, and Kolmari in Jaldhaka upazila have been under threat of erosion by the Teesta.

According to Water Development Board (WDB), the district has become an erosion-prone area with the construction of a 60-gate Gojaldoba barrage by India at the upstream of Teesta barrage at Dalia, defying international law.

There have been allegations that India releases waters opening up all the 10 gates of the Gojaldoba barrage during monsoon causing severe flooding in the frontier district.

Villagers alleged that they have not received any relief materials from the government yet.

The mighty Jamuna also continues to play havoc in Sirajganj, where the flood situation has worsened further, putting new areas of Chouhall, Kazipur, Belkuchi, Shahjadpur and Sadar upazila under water.

According to officials, over 500 dwelling houses at Sonatala Bazar, Choota Chamatra, Arjantibari villages and a number of educational institutions and a bazar in Shahjadpur upazila were devoured.

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Witnesses and police said the clash erupted among the supporters of upazila BCL president Moazzem Hossain Bablu and general secretary Mahfuz at about 2 pm after a meeting at Bonpara. During the two-hour-long trouble, both the groups chased each other equipped with rods and sticks creating panic among the people and leaving at least 20 supporters injured. A few rounds of gunshot were also fired, witnesses said. Of the injured, Alamgir, Mamun Chowdhury, Quddus, Sobhan, Shahjahan, Minhaj, Sharif and Mahfuz were admitted to Baroigram Upazila Health Complex and local clinics. A case was filed under PSA with local police.

News snaps

Burglary at magistrate's residence

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 26: Burglars looted valuables from a magistrate's residence in the court premises in the town on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police sources said the thieves entered the house of magistrate Jorul Islam by breaking the door-lock at 10 am and stole cash money and gold ornaments from his steel almirah. None was present in the house at that time. Police officials visited the spot.

20 hurt as Natore BCL factions clash

NATORE, July 26: At least 20 activists of ruling party's student front Chhatra League were injured in an intra-party clash in Baroigram upazila here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses and police said the clash erupted among the supporters of upazila BCL president Moazzem Hossain Bablu and general secretary Mahfuz at about 2 pm after a meeting at Bonpara. During the two-hour-long trouble, both the groups chased each other equipped with rods and sticks creating panic among the people and leaving at least 20 supporters injured. A few rounds of gunshot were also fired, witnesses said. Of the injured, Alamgir, Mamun Chowdhury, Quddus, Sobhan, Shahjahan, Minhaj, Sharif and Mahfuz were admitted to Baroigram Upazila Health Complex and local clinics. A case was filed under PSA with local police.

Non-govt teachers on strike

BAHMANBARIA, July 26: Continuous strike demanding 100 per cent salary and promotion of the teachers of non-government schools and colleges is being observed at different schools in Brahmanbaria under Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity Federation, reports BSS.

However, some schools and colleges, which are not under Shikkhak Samity Federation are not enforcing strike. A special gathering of the teachers with the initiative of Akhaura Upazila Shikkhak Sangram Committee was held in Shahed Smriti College on July 11. The meeting chaired by Principal A M Ishaque, was addressed, among others, by the General Secretary of Bangladesh College Shikkhak Samity Brahmanbaria Zila unit Professor Abul Kashem Mullah, Vice-Principal of Shaheed Smriti College Atiqur Rahman, President of Akhaura Upazila Shikkhak Samity Eusuf Mia, General Secretary Abdul Awal, Professor Jaynal Abedin, Professor Abdul Sattar Khan, Kausikha Ranjan Ghose, Headmaster Rukan Uddin, M Shajahan, M Muzammel Haque Khan, Madrasa Super Abdul Gayum, Nazir Hossain, Erfanul Islam and M Rakib.

BCL men ransack Narsingdi Shibir office

RANSINGDI, July 26: Angry BCL activists ransacked Shibir office, attacked Al-Hera Islamia Madrasa and beat its teacher Maulana Abdur Rahman at Shibpur on Monday, reports UNB.

Witnesses and police said BCL held a rally at Shibpur to protest the attempt on the life of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by planting a bomb at Kotalipara on July 20. The rally over BCL brought out a militant procession that ransacked Shibir office and attacked the madrasa, about 50 yards from the police station.

Fund shortage hampering activities in Moulvibazar

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, July 26: The development activities of Moulvibazar Municipality are being hampered greatly.

This is because of the municipality's liabilities. The liabilities have been created during the term of outgoing municipal committee. The 15-month old new municipal committee sanctioned Baka One crore 56 lakh 9 thousand to realise liabilities in the new budget for the fiscal 2000-01.

In the newly announced budget an amount of Taka Six crore 7 lakh 55 thousand 666 has been sanctioned for revenue and development expenditures including that of liability realisation.

This was disclosed by Alhaj Md. Md. Hossain, chairman of the municipality.

He added that a total burden of liabilities amounting to Taka Two crore 64 lakh was transferred to the newly elected municipal committee when he took charge of the municipality 15 months back.

During his 15 months period he realised an amount of Taka 59 lakh 65 thousand as liabilities

created by the former chairman and his committee.

In development head of expenditure Taka One crore 83 lakh remain unpaid. An amount of Taka One crore has been proposed in the new budget to realise liabilities of contractors' bills.

Besides this, electricity bill amounting to Taka 36 lakh 52 thousand 206 and telephone bill amounting to Taka 10 lakh 35 thousand 506 remain unpaid till now. Not only this bill for fuel and repairing of municipality vehicles and other valuable worth about Tk 1.50 lakh at gunpoint. In separate incident, armed robbers looted valuable worth about Tk 1.50 lakh from the house of Monir Hossain at village Bashantapur under Fulgazi upazila on June 27.

Police recovered a body of an unidentified youth aged about 24 at Nasir village in Chhagalnayaka upazila on June 27.

On July 6 police recovered bodies of an unidentified youth and a new born baby from Sonarpur and Daganbhuyian Bazar in Daganbhuyian upazila.

Three children were kidnapped here by organised gang. Nasrat Jahan Pome, 4, was kidnapped from village Davpur under Chhagalnayaka upazila on July 3. Nazma Akhtar, 10, was kidnapped from Daganbhuyian Bazar when she was going to her school on June 29. Besides, 11-year-old boy Abbas Uddin was kidnapped from village Gabatala under Fulgazi upazila on July 9.

A robbery was committed in the house of Abul Kashim in Rathanbari Road area in the town on July 13. The robbers looted gold ornaments and other valuable worth about Tk 6 lakh at gunpoint.

The municipality chairman said that grant from the government, foreign aid for development project and normal functioning of the municipality depend upon collection of holding tax.

FENI, July 26: Crimes like

murder, kidnap and robbery marked sharp rise in the last 30 days from June 18 to July 17 in the district, deteriorating the law and order situation.

An activist of Jubo League, youths' wing of ruling Awami League, was gunned down by unidentified hoodlums at village Neyamatpure under Sadar upazila on July 16. The victim was identified as Joynal Abedin Hymun, 27.

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APSAC calls strike in Rajshahi edn instts today

RAJSHAHI, July 26: Opposition backed All-Party Students Action Council (APSAC) has called a student strike in the educational institutions in the city on Thursday, reports UNB.

The council announced the strike from a rally at the RDA market here on Tuesday. It was organised to protest the arrest of students from different educational institutions. Some 63 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were arrested following the July 12 killings in Chittagong.

Some terrorists looted 200 bags of cements from the shop of Harun at Chhagalnayaka Bazar on June 18.

Man was robbed of Tk 44,000 in Trunk Road area in the town on July 3. The muggers numbering about four intercepted Nasir Mia in the area and took the money at gunpoint.

However, police arrested at least 275 people on several charges from various parts of the district during the period.

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Biman Bangladesh Airlines

ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA PHONES: 8914771-9, 8914730-4, CABLE: AIRBANGLA, TLX: 64264 DABG BJ

Ref: DACPF/Int'l Tender/001/2000-2001 Dt: 12.7.2000

International Tender

Sealed tender is hereby invited for supply of following items to Biman Bangladesh Airlines:

S/ NO.	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	COST SCHEDULE
1.	DACPF/INT'L TENDER/001/2000-2001 DT. 12.7.2000	GROUP-A. A/C. 50EA	BDT 2000.00 OR, USD 50.00 PER TOW TRACTOR SET FOR EACH BAGGAGE	

N.B. SCHEDULE SHOULD BE PURCHASED SEPARATELY FOR EACH GROUP.

Tender schedule with details specification, terms & conditions will be available at the cost of USD 50.00 or BDT 2000.00 per set for each group (non-refundable) from Accounts Officer, Cash & Banking, Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka and Asstt. Manager Accounts Cash & Banking, Balaka, Head Office, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka & Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st-12 Storied Govt. Office Building, 1st Floor, Room No. 205), Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 as well as with Finance Manager, Biman, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Dubai, London, Rome, Paris, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Brussels & New York on cash payment on all working days up to 16-8-2000. A formal application in company's letterhead pad mentioning tender number and date shall be required for purchasing the tender documents.

Sealed tender should be dropped in the tender box kept in the office of the Dy. General Manager, Stores & Purchase Directorate, Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka, Main Entrance, Biman Medical Centre, Security Counter (Ground floor), Farmgate, Dhaka and Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st-12 Storied Govt. Office Building, 1st Floor, Room No. 205), Segunbagicha, Dhaka latest by 1100 hrs. Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) on 17-8-2000. In case of direct offer from manufacturer/principal must submit their offer as per terms mentioned in the tender schedule. Tender box will be opened on the same day at 1400 hrs (BST) at the premises of Stores & Purchase Directorate, Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka in presence of the tenders (if any).

Biman Management reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tender, increase or decrease the quantity of items without assigning any reason whatsoever.

GD-713

Dy. General Manager, Purchase

Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh