

Silt threatens Old Brahmaputra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The Old Brahmaputra was once a mighty river. Now it is virtually a dead river.

Many shoals have emerged in many places of the riverbed of the Old Brahmaputra for years together.

The river has been silted up completely at Kusta, Ashtadhar, Bidyaganj, Begunbari, Boror Char, Char Sinta and Chat Islwanda of Sadar upazila.

Now cattle graze in these shoals. Flood water inundate these shoals in May or June. A shoal in Khagdahar union is so large that the farmers cultivate groundnut, potato, vegetables and various kinds of crops. Many people have also built houses at the large shoal in the riverbed near Mymensingh town. The shoal has been turned into a playing ground.

Now there are many points where people cross the river easily.

Massive siltation in this river has also affected other small rivers of the district. For this reason, navigation is being hampered seriously throughout the district. Navigation has been hampered particularly from Kachari Ferry Ghat to Jamalpur and other remote places of the district.



PHOTO: STAR

A big shoal has emerged in the bed of the Old Brahmaputra at Ghagdahar union of Mymensingh district. Farmers cultivate various crops in this shoal.

Riverine communication comes to a total halt in dry season. As a result transport cost has been increased over the years. Meanwhile, many labourers at different ferry ghats are out of job and the boatmen are fast changing their profession.

Dumping of garbages along the riverbank and flowing of sewer line in the river of the town are also causing slow death of the river.

When contacted, an engineer working with local Water

Development Board (WDB) informed that large quantity of silt have been deposited in the riverbed because of geological characteristic of the country.

Executive Engineer of local WDB Md Azharul Islam told this correspondent that a project to dredge the Old Brahmaputra river was undertaken 25 years ago, but the plan is yet to be implemented.

The prospect of bumper production of Boro in Brahmanbaria have been attributed to favourable weather condition and timely application of fertiliser and irrigation.

Local DAE source said, 88,295 hectares of lands were brought under the farming in the district during the current season.

The upazila-wise break-up of cultivation is as follows: 25,800 hectares of lands in Sadar 13,850 hectares in Nasirnagar, 15,250 hectares in Sarail, 12,085 hectares in Akhaura 14,300 hectares in Nabinagar and 7,010 hectares in Banchharampur.

It is expected that over 2.74 lakh tons of paddy will be produced.

As there are no genuine buyers in markets the middlemen are offering lesser price. As a result, the poor farmers are compelled to sell their paddy between Tk 200 and Tk 220 per maund, much below the production cost.

In Sathkira, there has been a bumper yield of Boro in the district this year.

The production target of paddy has been exceeded by 52,238 tons.

According to official sources, the production target was fixed at 142,500 tons but 174,738 tons were produced.

A total of 67,750 kg of seeds of high yielding varieties of Boro were distributed among the farmers by the government.

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In Chandpur, farmers had a bumper IRRI-Boro harvest this year despite heavy rains.

According to DAE, about 150,000 hectares of lands were brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation during the current season in the district.

The DAE had fixed the target of per hectare production at 2.50 metric tons of paddy but the production surpassed the target. The production reached 4 metric tons of paddy this year.

Some farmers complained that the production cost of paddy was higher this year.

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NEWS SNAPS

Housewife chopped to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A housewife was chopped to death allegedly by his husband at Pankhrua village in Chalanbeel area under Ullapara upazila in Sirajganj district on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Kursi Begum, 30, wife of a local trader named Jonab Ali of village Pankhrua under Ullapara upazila in Sirajganj district. Police said while the housewife was fast asleep with her four kids her husband separated her head from body by a spade. As a result she died on the spot. Police arrested Jonab Ali from his house. The cause of murder could not be known. A case was lodged with Ullapara police station in this connection.

Another newsman threatened

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The Faridpur District Correspondent of Manab Jamil, Kamruzzaman Sohel in an application to the President of Faridpur Press Club stated that he had received a threat over telephone by an anonymous caller recently.

In a meeting of the local journalists at the club with journalist Jagadish Chandra Ghosh in the chair, Kamruzzaman said that a series of news items on alleged misdeeds of some local youths had been published in Manab Jamil for two or three consecutive days. This has enraged the concerned youths. So they have threatened Kamruzzaman to cut off his two legs. However, he told the meeting that the stories had been covered by a special correspondent of Manab Jamil.

The meeting expressed deep concern over the incident and condemned the threat on the innocent journalist.

Later the journalists met the Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur, Abdus Salam Khan at his office and informed him about the incident.

Tk 5cr house bldg project undertaken

UNB, Rangamati

Rangamati Works Department has undertaken a project to construct multistoried building for the housing of government officials and employees of the district at a cost of Tk 5 crore.

As part of converting the 61 tin-shed quarters into multistoried buildings the department has got budgetary allocation of Tk 1.0 crore initially to construct 10 buildings this year. Work order to construct four buildings has already been issued but the problems have cropped up when the ownership of land arose. The Bazar committee raised the problems and the authorities were forced to refund the money this year as the work could not be started due to the dispute.

Goods, cash looted from four trucks

UNB, Bogra

Armed dacoits putting up barricade on Bogra-Natore Highway on Bogra district looted goods and cash of at least four trucks and a van early hours Monday.

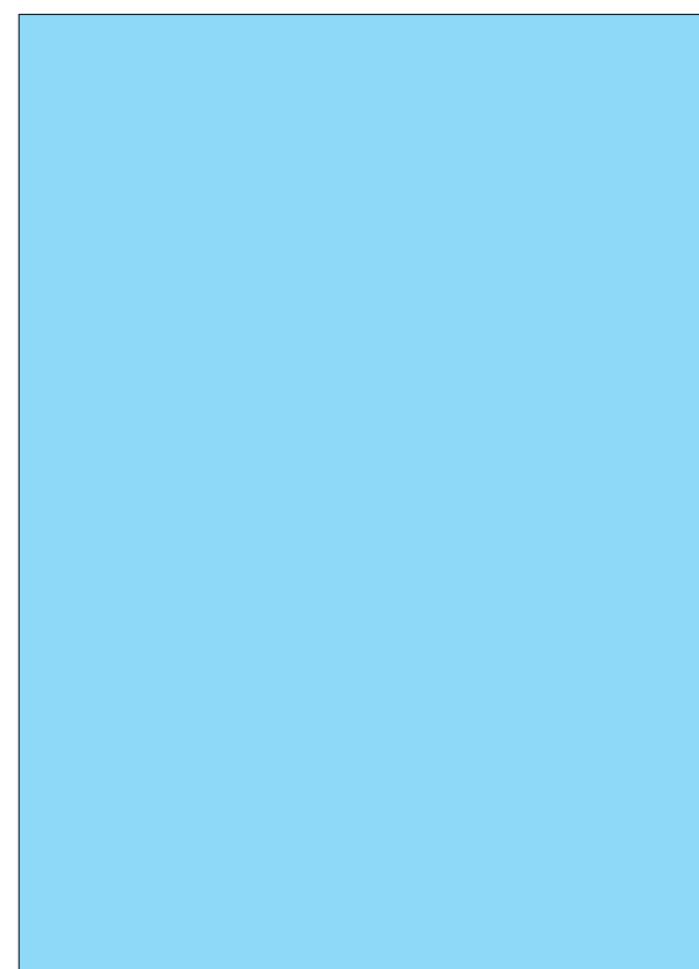
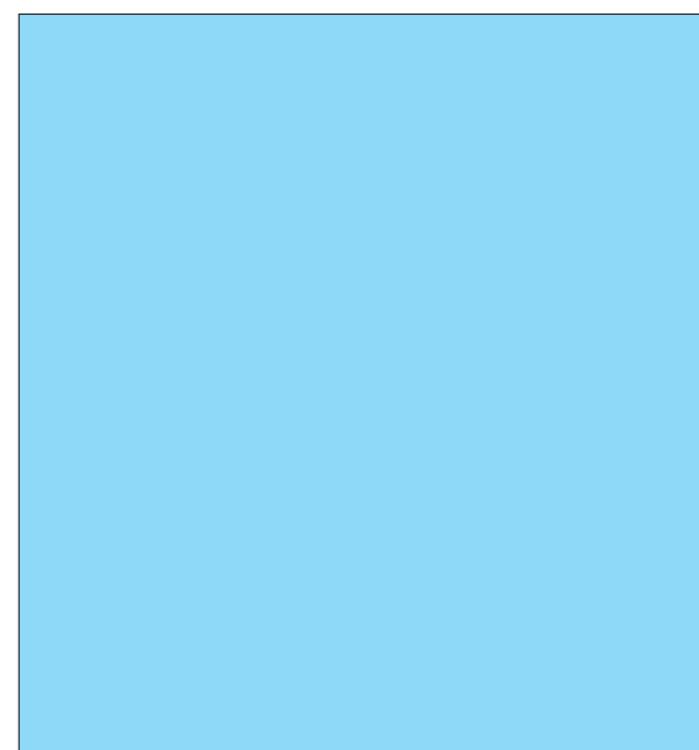
Police said dacoits barricaded the road at Purbukuchai in Nandigram upazila at 2:30 am on Monday and looted the trucks and van of a pharmaceutical company at gunpoint. Patrol police rushed to spot and opened fire at the bandits who managed to flee unharmed.

Uplift activities hampered

UNB, Rangamati

Development activities in Rangamati district are being hampered as many important posts like PIO are lying vacant.

Official sources said the post of Project Implementation Officer (PIO) in all upazilas of the district while that of District Relief Officer have long been lying vacant. They said the PIO's role in implementing development programmes like Food-for-Works and rural infrastructure maintenance programmes is vital. But there is no sign in sight to fill up the vacant posts. The post of district Relief Officer has been lying vacant since June 1999, hindering day to day works of Relief Department.



Bumper Boro expected in Comilla, B'Baria

AGENCIES

Bumper production of Boro paddy is expected in Comilla and Brahmanbaria districts while there has been bumper yield of the crop in Chandpur and Sathkira districts.

In Comilla, bumper production of Boro is expected this year.

Favourable weather condition and timely application of fertilisers contributed to the bumper production.

Meanwhile, the harvesting of the crop has started.

According to local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), 1,15,303 hectares lands were brought under the cultivation in the district during this season.

It is expected that over 4.27 lakh tons of paddy will be produced.

The prospect of bumper production of Boro in Brahmanbaria have been attributed to favourable weather condition and timely application of fertiliser and irrigation.

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schools and colleges. At least one hundred readers visit the library every day. The library subscribes five dailies, three weeklies and five monthlies for the readers.

The problems include shortage of necessary books, accommodation, furniture and space in the reading room. Moreover, there are no tubewell, latrine and urinal facilities in the library premises.

The library was established in 1957 with the relentless efforts of the local elite with only 250 books.

Late Advocate Afsaruddin of the area was the founder secretary of the library.

At present there are over 11,000 books of which 250 are as per the syllabuses of the students of

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This decision has been taken at a meeting of the transport owners at their Rangpur office on Monday. The meeting deplored that despite an assurance by the government to fulfil five-point demands of transport owners, these remain implemented.

The assurance was made following a meeting of transport owners with Communication Minister, Home Minister, Food Minister, Commerce Minister and other high officials of the government on June 21 in 1998.

Communication Minister chaired the meeting.

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