

Jamuna threatens flood control dam in Bogra

Over 1,50,000 families likely to be affected in Dhunat, Sharikandi upazilas

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

The Jamuna has threatened the right portion of flood control embankment at Talukderpara in Shariakandi upazila.

On contact, local Union Parishad (UP) member Shahadat Hossain Dulal said his house is likely to be devoured within a few days if erosion continues unabated. He said a major portion of the flood control embankment at Talukderpara point would be eroded within a short period if the erosion is not checked immediately.

Local people have apprehended damage of scores of houses in near future. A large number of houses along the embankment eroded last year, they said.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Sub-Divisional Engineer (SDE) Zahural Haque said more than 1,50,000 families might be affected in Dhunat and Sharikandi upazila if erosion could not be checked without further delay. If the erosion continues in such a speed the flood control embankment may be washed away within a week, said a WDB official.

SDE Zahural Haque said the department already invited a tender to protect the embankment at Talukderpara point. But fund is yet to be allotted. A portion of Chandanbaisa hard point eroded last year which had been built to protect Chandanbaisa and adjacent areas including part of Talukderpara. But the eroded

point has not yet been repaired due to fund constant, said the BWDB official.

An amount of Tk 80 lakh is

required to repair the hard point while Tk 99 lakh is required to protect the embankment at Talukderpara point, he said.

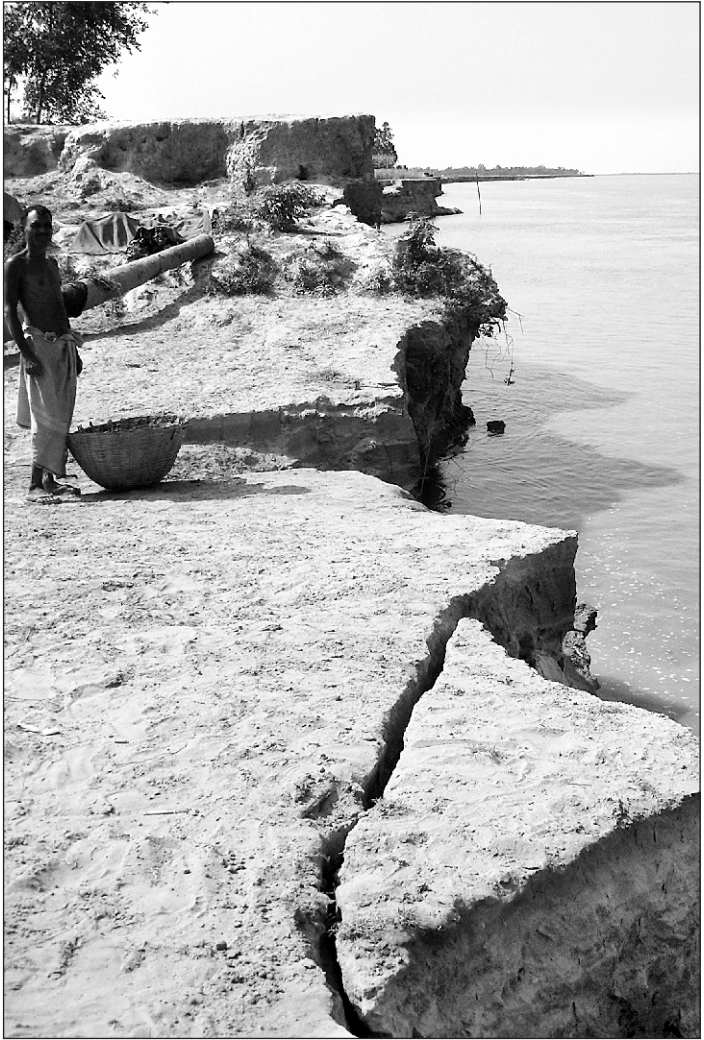


PHOTO: STAR

The Jamuna is about to devour Chandanbisa village in Sharikandi upazila.

Kamalganj BNP leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Joint forces arrested Kamalganj Pourasava chairman Hasin Afroz Chowdhury, also Kamalganj upazila BNP general secretary, on extortion charge.

Joinr forces arrested him on Sunday night following filing of an extortion case filed by Hajee Yakub Ali of Alepur village on April 25 last.

Hajee Yakub Ali alleged that Kamalganj Pourasava chairman Hasin Afroz Chowdhury had demanded Tk 20,000 from him to resolve a dispute. Accordingly, he gave Tk 10,000 to the poura chairman while it was decided that the rest amount of Tk 10,000 would be handed over to him after resolving the dispute.

However, police produced him before a court in Moulvibazar from where he was sent to jail.

Four Indians languish in Satkhira jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Four Indian nationals have been languishing in Satkhira jail, even after completion of their prison term within a period from July 10, 2006 to April 8 this year as the jail authorities failed to send them back to India.

Indian nationals Shafiqul Islam Mollah, son of Eman Ali Mollah of village Kulti in Haroa police station under North 24 Parganas district West Bengal India, completed his 18 years 6 months prison term on July 10, 2006, while Yusuf Ali, son of Arshad Ali of village Sreedharkati in Hingalganj police station in South 24 Parganas district India, completed his five years prison term on April 8 last and Mantu Mistri, son of Rathikanta Mistri and Abdul Gazi, son of Ruhul Gazi of village Kalitala in the same police station in India, completed their 10 years prison term on March 1 this year.

The jail authorities attempted several times to push them back to India after expiry of their prison term in recent times but the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) refused to take them back without showing any reason on several occasions.

In such a situation, the four were sent back to Satkhira jail.

According to the jail authorities, the four Indians were arrested for their involvement in different criminal activities including robbery and bomb blasts. They were convicted and sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment on various terms by the concerned courts.

From destitute to garment worker

Ahsania Mission, European Union launch skill development training

STAR NATIONAL DESK

'I became a destitute when my father died 12 years ago,' said 25-year-old Sapna of Rupnagar area in Mirpur, Dhaka.

As Sapna was devastated, she was compelled to become a domestic help at a house.

But fortune smiled on her when a Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) official detected her in a survey conducted in the area. He enrolled her as a trainee of DAM Vocational Training Institute (VTI) in Gazipur. There she underwent a three-month skill development training (SDT) course on Knitwear Trade.

On completion of the training, she got a job at the initiative of DAM officials and became an operator of Cascendra Sweater Factory in Pallabi, Mirpur. She is indeed doing very well and earning Tk 1,500 each month. Products of her factory have good global markets, especially in European countries.

Similar are the stories of Sonia, 20, of Modern Sweater Factory, Bilkis, 22, of SN Sweater Factory, Baby, 24, of Rana Sweater Factory and Lipi, 23, of Modern Sweater Factory. All of them are inhabitants of slum areas of Biharipotty, Bhasantek, Dhamalkot and Baonia embankment in Mirpur. Quality garment products have a great demand abroad, especially in European countries.

DAM contributes to filling a gap in job training for jobless, underprivileged, young, semi-skilled jobless garment workers and disabled women aged 18-30 years. They are undergoing skill development training in two vocational training institutes, one in Gazipur and the other in Mirpur in the capital. Skill development courses are being offered to jobless, underprivileged, young, semi-skilled jobless garment workers and disabled women aged 18-30 years. The trade courses are Knitwear Garments, Handicrafts and Leather Crafts. European Union (EU) has

been funding the Skill Development Project for Promotion of Bangladeshi Exports in European Union Countries.

As many as 905 women will be able to take training in the aforesaid three trade courses. Since its inception on May 15 in 2006, this programme has benefited 786 women. About 482 women were employed. Of them, 285 were employed in export oriented garment industries at the initiative of DAM and 197 others were self-employed. At present, 160 women are undergoing training in three trades in the third batch.



PHOTO: STAR

Destitute women undergoing training on knitwear trade at DAM Vocational Training Institute in Gazipur.

Wife beaten to death in Pabna

A CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A housewife was beaten to death for dowry by her husband at Masimpur village under Pabna Sadar upazilla.

The victim was identified as Tota Begum, 22, wife of Jahangir Alam.

Quoting local people police said Jahangir often used to beat Tota Begum for dowry. On Sunday night he beat her mercilessly leaving her dead.

The victim's father Abu Bakker Shaikh filed a case accusing Jahangir under the Women and Children Act.

Police Service Delivery Centre opens at Syedpur

SYEDPUR: A police service delivery centre has been opened at Syedpur Police Station, says a press release.

A B Siddique, superintendent of police (SP), Nilphamari, opened the centre aiming at helping people resolve their problems. He asked the police officials to render their all-out cooperation to general people.

The Acting Officer-in-charge (OC) of Syedpur and other officials were present at its opening ceremony held recently.

The SP, in another view exchange meeting, urged police personnel to enhance the image of police by their sincere service.

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