

# Over Tk 100cr flood loss in Netrakona, Pabna, B'baria

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Floodwaters have receded from the districts of Netrakona, Pabna and Brahmanbaria leaving a trail of devastation in the areas.

Over Tk 100cr flood loss has been estimated officially in Netrakona, Pabna and Brahmanbaria districts.

Our Netrakona Correspondent reports: Flood damage in the entire district has been estimated to be Tk 98 crore, the district administration sources said.

Netrakona district administration sources said the breakup is as follows: 7,000 damaged houses worth about Tk 5 crore, 4,000 hectares of damaged seedbed worth about Tk 8 crore, 9,000 hectares of damaged vegetable field worth about Tk 27 crore, seven damaged bridges worth about Tk 21 crore, 41 damaged culverts worth about Tk 4 crore and 34 km damaged embankment worth about Tk 16 crore and 310 km damaged roads worth about Tk 17 crore.

Although the flood situation

improved a lot, but the road communications between Netrakona district headquarters and Kalmakanda, Durgapur upazila headquarters remained disrupted. This is because seven bridges and 21 culverts are yet to be repaired.

The flood affected people are returning to their homes, but the land less and the destitutes are still living under the sky.

As a result, future of the flood affected people, specially of the low-income group, whose homesteads were lost in the devastating flood remained bleak.

Our Pabna Correspondent reports: The recent flood has caused a major damage to fisheries sector in the entire district, official sources said.

Fish and fry worth about Tk 5 crore in at least 3,000 ponds were washed away by floodwaters, Pabna district fisheries office sources said.

At least 2,220 acres of breeding grounds of fish were washed away in seven upazilas here. The affected

upazilas are Pabna Sadar, Ishwardi, Chatmohar, Bera, Sujanager, Faridpur and Bhangura, said fisheries office sources.

The district fisheries office has urged the authorities concerned for a grant of Tk 2.80 lakh for rehabilitation of about 1,700 marginal fish farmers. But the authorities concerned are yet to allocate the fund, sources said. Meanwhile, fish farmers are not getting fertiliser for fish cultivation causing sufferings to fish farmers, related sources said.

Pabna district fisheries office sources said, fish and fry of 852 ponds worth Tk 1.78 crore were washed away in Chatmohar upazila while in Bhangura upazila fish of 562 ponds worth Tk 81 lakh, in Faridpur upazila fish of 386 ponds worth Tk 88 lakh, in Bera upazila, fish of 156 ponds worth Tk 46 lakh, in Sujanager upazila fish of 313 ponds worth Tk 31.31 lakh, in Ishwardi Upazila, fish of 298 ponds worth Tk 42 lakh and in pabna Sadar upazila fish of 150 ponds worth Tk 15 lakh were washed away by

floodwaters.

During a visit to the flood affected areas, this correspondent found that many fish farmers have become pauper after the deluge. Gopal Barman, a hatchery owner of Chatmohar Upazila, Gobinda Halder of Patulipara village in Bhangura Upazila and Abdur Razzak in the same upazila lamented for the loss they incurred due to flood. They wanted chemical fertiliser in large quantity on subsidy to restart fish cultivation.

At least, 2,714 metric tones of urea, 1,334 metric tones of TSP and 275 metric tones of MP fertiliser are needed for fish cultivation in the entire district, official sources informed.

But there is no official allocation for fertiliser till now, said the suffers. District fisheries office sources said when fish farmers go to collect fertiliser, they do not get it.

On contact, Pabna District fisheries officer JM Anwarul Haque said there is no allocation for fertiliser for fish cultivation in the district till now.

'We have already sent a demand for fertiliser to the higher authorities but they are yet to reply to sanction it,' he said. The district fisheries office has sent a demand for Tk 2.80 crore for post flood rehabilitation of fish farmers, he disclosed to this correspondent.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent reports: The flood damage has been estimated to be several crores of taka, unofficial sources said.

About 3,205 families were affected by the recent flood in different parts of the district.

The District Relief and Rehabilitation Office (DRRO) sources said, at least 19,270 people of 48 unions were affected by the deluge which started since August 2.

The DRRO office sources said, 17 cattle head died by flood.

Because of flood, 939 acres of cropland, 211 houses, 114 kilometre roads, and three educational institutions, two kilometre embankment, seven bridges and culverts were completely damaged.

About 7,394 acres of cropland, 1,301 houses and 463 kilometre road were partially damaged.

The district administration has started distributing relief, cash money and rice among the flood stricken people here.

The district administration has also sent a demand to the higher authorities for allotment of Tk 20 lakh to face the post flood situation, DRRO office sources said.

## 1st anniversary of Phulbari carnage today Punishment to killers demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The first anniversary of Phulbari carnage will be observed here today.

On this day last year, three people were killed and many others wounded when members of the law enforcement authorities including BDR and police opened fire on them.

People of Phulbari and the adjoining upazilas were trying to besiege to the office Asia Energy Corporation (AEC), a UK based company, in Phulbari peacefully but the law enforcers intercepted the demonstrators about half-a-kilometre from the office and killed them. Thousands of people of Phulbari, Birampur, Parbatipur and Ghoraghat upazilas took to the streets for cancellation of Phulbari Open-pit Coal Mine Project and expulsion of AEC from the country.

National and local committees for Protection of Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources have jointly chalked out a programme to mark the day. The programme includes mourning procession, milad mahfil and laying wreath at the altar of grave of the diseased.

Anu Muhammad, member secretary of the national oil, gas and mineral resources protection committee, have demanded punishment to the killers and fulfillment of its six-point demand.

Anu Muhammad, also a professor of the Department of Economics of Jahangirnagar University, said had the project been implemented, about 4 lakh people in the area rendered shelterless and environment of the surrounding areas threatened.

## 2 killed in lightning in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Two persons were killed and five others injured in lightning in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

They were killed while working in a paddy field at Shuhilpur village under Sadar upazila.

Those killed were Sobuj, 18, son of Rejan Mia and Alam Mia, 25, son of Lilu Mia of Shuhilpur village.

Among the injured persons Liton Mia, 18 and Firuj Mia, 26, were admitted to Brahmanbaria sadar hospital while the rests were given first aid.



Adolescent girls take vow to resist early marriage and dowry at a meeting held at Kashipur village in Tala upazila, Satkhira yesterday.

# Satkhira girls take vow to resist early marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a unique day for over 250 adolescent girls at a remote village of Kashipur in Tala upazila yesterday where they vowed to resist early marriage and dowry.

They took the vow at a discussion meeting titled, 'Role of Adolescent Girls in Resisting Early Marriage and Dowry' at the village.

The unique programme was organised by 'Amar Sonar Paribar' a project of a local NGO named Rishilipi run by two Italians working for removing early marriage and dowry from the society.

The discussion was held in front of the community centre at Kashipur with Rabin Das in the chair.

Rishilipi director Enzo Falcone was the chief guest while the Italian friends of Rishilipi Delio and Fulvio were present as special guests.

Speakers stressed on the need for creating mass awareness against early marriage and necessity of marriage registration.

They said, lack of knowledge about bad effects of early marriage, religious superstitions, ignorance and absence of social awareness were the main reasons behind early marriage and marriage without registration.

Women repression because of early marriage and dowry is a common incident in the country. They urged the villagers to eliminate the social curse.

It is a hard task to resist the deep rooted vices from a society where literacy rate is poor and the age-old superstitions still prevails but Rishilipi has achieved a tremendous success to remove early marriage and dowry, Enzo Falcone said while addressing as chief guest.

'We often fail to resist early marriage from the ultra poor families of the

society in remote areas where literacy rate is too low', he said.

'But we must remove the curse', Amar Sonar Paribar programme manager Safiul Haque said.

Lack of female education and self-reliance are the reasons behind early marriage and dowry in Bangladesh, Delio said. Education is the only way to remove the vices, she added.

Speakers said the local Union Parishad chairmen and members can help a lot in this regard.

It was addressed by, among others, Safiul Haque, Khalilur Rahman, Anath Kumar Biswas, guardians Bithika Rani Das and Rabindra Nath Das and adolescent girls, Joisna Khatun and Mousumi Rani Das.



PHOTO: STAR

Flood damaged Sirajgonj-Hatikumru road which caused untold sufferings to commuters and pedestrians alike.

# Tk 70cr project to develop Kuakata undertaken

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) has taken up a Tk 70 crore Kuakata development project to make the sea beach more attractive to tourists of home and abroad, BPC and Kuakata Parjatan motel sources said.

The BPC has called a bid to this effect, they said.

A two-year project involving Tk 1,000 lakh for infrastructure development including renovation of two Buddhist temples, development of a youth tourist centre, construction of a motel and purchase of modern transport vehicles has been undertaken, Khalid-Bin-Majid, deputy Manager of BPC said.

Another project costing Tk 6,000 lakh includes construction of three bridges and a motel in Barisal town,

sources said.

The project proposal has already been completed.

The Public Works Department will renovate the Buddhist temples. Rest of the work includes construction of a 100-bed motel, 200-bed youth tourist centre and purchase of two air-conditioned luxury tourist buses.

After completion the work, Kuakata, situated about 72 Kilometre south of Patuakhali district town, will be more attractive to the tourists of home and abroad, Faruquzzaman, manager of Kuakata Parjatan Motel said.

The scenic beauty of Kuakata has already attracted many foreign and Bangladeshi tourists. Sunrise and sunset are distinctly visible at the sea the beach.

10x3

12x3

4x2