

Padma devours town protection embankment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A portion of the town protection embankment in Faridpur was devoured by the Padma yesterday well before the start of monsoon.

About 60 meters of the embankment at Dhaler intersection in Decree Char union under Sadar upazila of the district washed away, creating panic among the town dwellers.

The erosion started at around 10 in the morning. At noon it took a serious turn and around 60 metre basement with boulders and sand bags went down the river.

Faridpur Water Development Board (WDB) officials rushed to the spot where protection

work was done just a week ago.

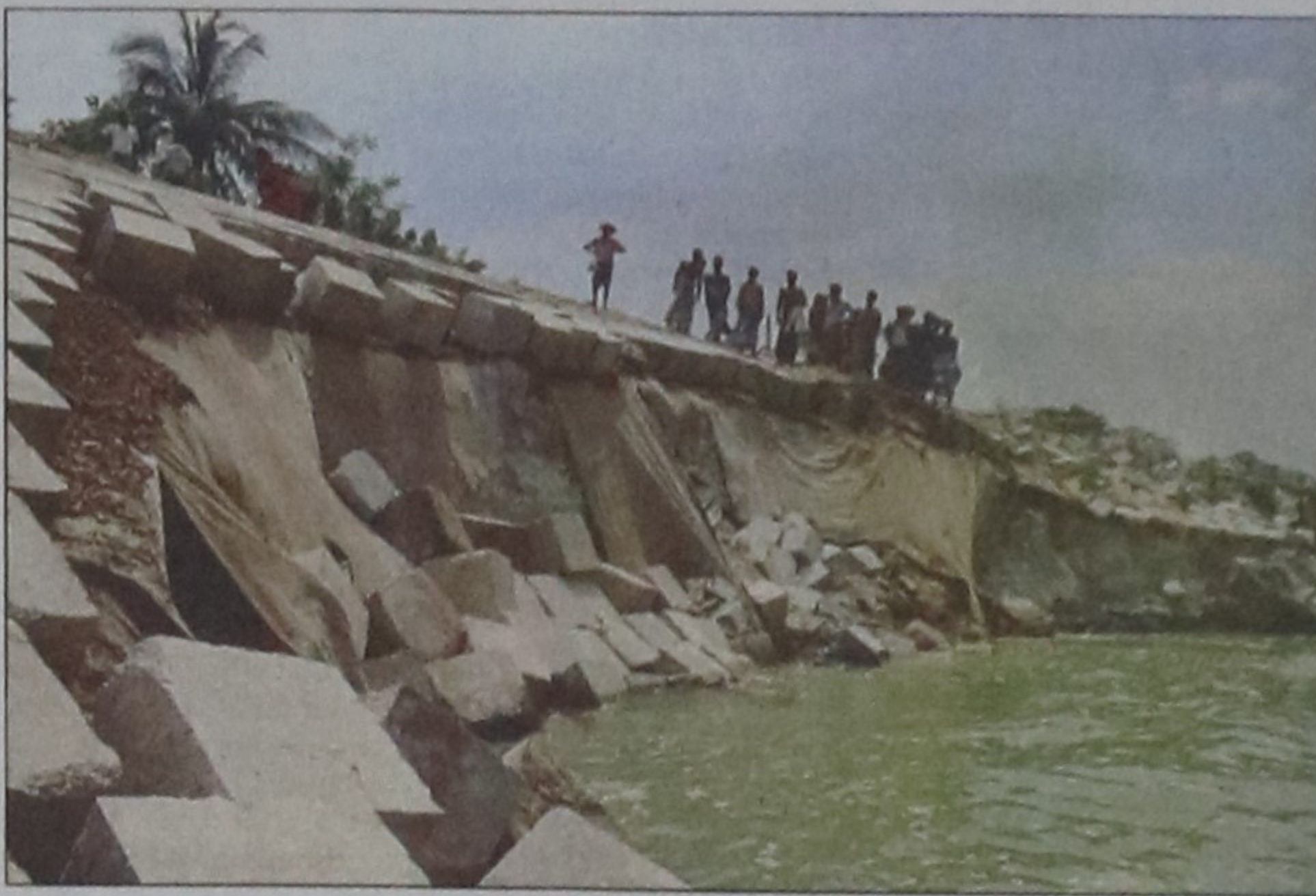
Rafiq Ullah, executive engineer of the WDB, said swinging current of the river hit the embankment relentlessly causing serious erosion.

The embankment was erected under a project in 2004-2005 fiscal year. But it is the first incident of such erosion, he said.

We have already started dumping GO textile bags and CCB blocks, he added.

"We hope to protect the town from possible devastation", he said.

But locals alleged that the erosion started before the monsoon as the standard of the recently done 'maintenance work' was not up to the mark.



Around 60-metre of Faridpur Town Protection Embankment at Dhaler intersection in Decree Char union under Faridpur Sadar upazila gave in to the Padma yesterday.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

CU classes resume

CU CORRESPONDENT

Academic activities at Chittagong University (CU) resumed yesterday after a six-day suspension. The university authorities suspended all classes and examinations on May 15 following a clash on the campus between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir that left at least 30 injured. Though presence of the students yesterday was thin, all classes and scheduled examinations were held peacefully. No untoward incident took place on the first day, said CU Assistant Proctor Chandan Kumar Poddar. Meantime, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) CU unit submitted a memo to Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Abu Yusuf to press their four-point demand in the afternoon. The demands included cancellation of seats allocated amid irregularities, punishment to the Shibir cadres who attacked them on May 14 and treatment expenditure for injured activists.

Elderly man murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'naabaganj

Police recovered body of an elderly man from a water body at Dinonathpur Friday evening. Police said, Abed Ali, 60, of Dinonathpur village under Sadar Upazila went to a field near the water body in the morning for grazing cows. But locals found his body in the evening floating in water with marks of injuries. Sub Inspector Jamal Uddin of Sadar Police Station said, they are yet to ascertain the reason behind his death. Wife of the deceased filed a murder case.



PHOTO: STAR

Self and Social Development Association forms a human chain at Rajshahi yesterday demanding steps to prevent desertification and protect environment in the region.

Shop owners stage protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Medicine shop owners at Sadar Hospital Road yesterday again kept their shutters down for about two hours demanding removal of a drug shop set up on Magura Sadar Hospital premises. They brought out a procession which paraded the main thoroughfare of the town. Later, the shop owners went to the residence of Magura-1 constituency lawmaker and submitted a memorandum to him. Earlier, on Tuesday they laid a siege to the office of the Civil Surgeon (CS) and submitted a memorandum to him demanding eviction of the aforesaid medicine shop.

Principal held on rape charge

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Police on Friday night arrested a college principal on charge of trying to violate a domestic help at Madhnanagar village under Naldanga Police Station. Afaz Uddin, principal of Madhnanagar Degree College used to live in a rented house. When the young maid of the house came to ground floor for taking drinking water from a tube well, Afaz allegedly tried to rape her. Angry people laid a siege to the house. Later police arrested him and a case was filed in this regard.

Brac official arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A branch manager of Kamapra Brac office under Sadullapur upazila was arrested by police yesterday on charge of embezzlement of Tk five lakh 21 thousand. His co-accused, however, fled away to avoid arrest after a case was filed with Sadullapur Police Station on Thursday. Police said, Shahidul Islam, branch manager and Mahfuzur Rahman, accountant of Kamapara Brac office withdrew the amount from the local branch of Agrani Bank a few days ago and embezzled the money without depositing to Brac office. Police arrested Shahidul following a case filed by the Brac area manager.



PHOTO: STAR

Collapse of the Bailey bridge across Kataphari River in Pekua upazila of Cox's Bazar on May 15 keeps road links in the area snapped till date, left, while people taking risky walk on a bamboo bridge to cross the river.

Bridge collapse snaps road links for 9 days

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Traffic movement on Pekua-Moghnama-Baniachhara Road in coastal upazila Pekua has remained suspended since May 15 when the 130-metre 'alternative bridge' across the Kataphari River collapsed under the pressure of a salt-laden truck.

As road connection in the area remains cut, supply of huge quantity of locally produced salt, fish and other essentials to other parts of the country has remained stopped and about three lakh people of Kutubdia, Chakoria and Pekua

upazilas are suffering.

Officials concerned could not say when the bridge will reopen.

"On May 12, I bought 11 tonnes of salt from local farmers to supply it to Dhaka but I could not send it as the bridge collapsed. If it rains the salt will be damaged," said trader Anwar Hossain of Kataphari village.

"About 5,000 people are now crossing the river using a risky bamboo bridge every day. The upazila administration is trying to build a temporary wooden bridge to mitigate people's sufferings," Pekua Upazila Parishad

Chairman Shafayat Aziz said.

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) engineer in Chakoria upazila, Abdur Rashid said letter has been sent to the higher authorities seeking allocation for starting repair work of the bridge.

The repair work cannot be started without allocation of funds, Cox's Bazar Zone RHD Executive Engineer Abdul Halim said.

Meanwhile, little progress has been made about construction of a permanent bridge on Kataphari River after about 50 per cent of the work was done till December 2006, sources concerned said.

'Release 7 fellows of Comilla institute'

Sit-in at Rajshahi by survey students

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Engineering and Survey Institute in Rajshahi yesterday staged a sit-in at Sonadighi crossing on busy Sonadighi road demanding immediate release of Comilla Survey Institute students.

The demonstrators also urged the government to meet their four-point demand in a short time.

On Wednesday last, at least 20 students of Comilla Survey Institute were injured in police attack on the institute campus when the students staged demonstration to press home their four-point demand. Police also arrested seven students from the spot.

Yesterday morning, several hundred general students of Engineering and Survey Institute in Rajshahi under the banner of 'Students Development Committee' boycotted their classes and examinations and brought out a protest procession in the city.

After parading different

streets, they barricaded busy Sonadighi Road and staged a sit-in at Sonadighi crossing protesting police action on Comilla Survey Institute students and demanding their immediate release.

The agitating students called on the government to immediately meet their four-point demand.

The demand includes recognition of the survey institute students as diploma holders in job sector, their recruitment as survey diploma holder, sub-assistant settlement officer, deputy assistant land surveyor, building inspector, sub-assistant engineer (survey) and taxation officer and inclusion of modern technologies in their survey education.

The sit-in caused serious traffic jam on Sonadighi Road.

Later at a protest rally on the campus, the students announced boycotting classes and examinations until their four-point demand was met.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Engineering and Survey Institute in Rajshahi demonstrate on Sonadighi Road in the city yesterday.

Tortured by husband, poor Fuljan fights for life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Victim of brutalities by husband and his in-laws, 20-year-old Fuljan is fighting for life at Faridpur General Hospital.

On May 8, Fuljan's husband Ujjal and his accomplices tortured her and cut her lower abdomen with scissors and left her unconscious in a paddy field, thinking her dead.

Fuljan is the daughter of Abul Latif Pradhan and Khodeza Begum of Kristipur Mojidpara village under Chuadanga Sadar upazila.

Around seven months ago, car driver Ujjal Mollick of Uthuli village under Shibaboy upazila of Manikganj district married her keeping secret his first marriage with Shefali of Mobarakdia village.

They started living in Dhaka where Fuljan worked in a garment factory.

As Fuljan failed to meet Ujjal's demand for money as dowry, he tortured her several times, she said.

After knowing about Ujjal's



marriage with Fuljan, Ujjal's first wife Shefali insisted that he leave Fuljan.

On May 8 Ujjal took Fuljan to Shefali's house at Mobarakdia, saying that it was his relative's house. On that night, Ujjal, Shefali, her brother Oli and sister Farida beat up Fuljan, cut her hair and pierced her lower abdomen with scissors. As Fuljan fainted, they left her in paddy field near Chitar Bazar of Mobarakdia village.

The next morning, some farmers found Fuljan in the field and sent her to Faridpur General Hospital by an auto-

rickshaw.

The auto-rickshaw puller admitted her to the hospital and informed Bangladesh Mohila Parishad and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) Faridpur unit to take initiative.

On behalf of Fuljan, BLAST filed a case against the five culprits with Women and Children Repression Prevention Court in Faridpur on last Sunday.

"They (Ujjal, Shefali and their relatives) tried to kill me. I want to live. I want justice," said Fuljan groaning with pain at the hospital.

"We are trying our best to cure Fuljan. Infection in her cut lower abdomen is serious," said Dr Pavez of Faridpur General Hospital.

Poor Fuljan's treatment is going on with the help of a few generous people.

Advocate Shipra Goswami, a legal advisor of BLAST, said they will legally fight to ensure justice for the barbaric torture upon Fuljan.



PHOTO: STAR/BANGLAR CHOKH

Law enforcers recover deer hides from traffickers at Dakshin Charduan in Patharghata upazila under Barguna on Friday, left, and seven spotted deer from traffickers on Monday.

Deer hides seized in Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police seized four deer hides at South Chardoani village under Patharghata upazila of Barguna district on Friday night.

A patrol team of Patharghata Police Station saw two men on a road at the village at around 9:30 pm. When the law enforcers challenged the two, they ran away leaving a bag on the road.

Police recovered the bag and found four deer hides in it. A GD (General Diary) was filed with Patharghata Police Station in this regard.

On May 18, police seized seven deer when a

gang of smugglers was carrying them in a trawler through a canal near Gaanpara village. Police could not arrest the smugglers as they fled the scene sensing presence of the law enforcers.

A Rab team arrested a youth named Sharif at Patharghata on March 8 and recovered 10 deer hides from his possession.

Police said a gang is involved in smuggling deer, deer hides and venison out of the country. On October 10, 2004, they arrested four smugglers—yunus, Latif, Siddique and Badsha—at Chardowani village.

প্রবোধ ৩০ বছর
বদলে যাও বদলে যাও

আমি চোদ্দাইল কানিহাতি ডোম্বোনে আমায় আমায়
গুনিয়ে ফাটলি দাও-দিক্তি বদলন চিকিৎসা কেন্দ্র
স্থাপন করব।

দেবপ্রিয় ভট্টাচার্য
অর্থনীতিবিদ

বলুন, লিখুন
বদলে দিন বাংলাদেশ

এমনি করে একটি একটি শপথেই একদিন বদলে যাবে দেশ। আর তাই আপনার শপথ
সম্মত করার জন্যই আপনার এলাকায় আসছে **বদলে যাও বদলে যাও** ব্যানার। আপনিও
লিখুন বদলে যাবার অথবা বদলে দেবার একটি শপথ। যা দেশে অনুপ্রাণিত হবে কোটি মানুষ।

অথবা আপনার বদলে যাবার শপথটি এসএমএস করে পাঠিয়ে দিতে পারেন। এসএমএস করলে লিখুন
bedol-space>আপনার শপথ<space>আপনার নাম<space>শহরের নাম এবং পাঠিয়ে দিন ২২২১ নম্বরে।

প্রথম আলো