

PERENNIAL WATERLOGGING

Eid brings no cheers for 5 lakh in 2 dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

No effective step is still in sight to mitigate sufferings of a large number of people affected by perennial waterlogging in the Kobadak basin in Satkhira district and Sharsha upazila in Jessore district.

The Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow brings no cheers for about three lakh people of 174 villages in 20 unions of Tala, Kalaroa and Satkhira Sadar upazilas as they could not cultivate aman in the current season due to waterlogging, reports our Satkhira correspondent.

Rain water and water from the River Kobadak remained stagnant in the nearby areas as the silted up river could not absorb and flow out rainwater during the rainy season.

A large number of people, rendered homeless due to the waterlogging, are still staying on high lands or roadsides.

Most of the farmers and day labourers in the affected areas

could hardly do any Eid shopping.

As many middle class people could not buy sacrificial animals, the prices of cattle are reportedly downward.

The waterlogging makes life of about three lakh people in Satkhira district miserable as flooding recurs every year with spiralling ferocity but the authorities failed to excavate the silted river Kabodak to ease its flow.

Encroachment by land grabbers and raising of bamboo barriers by so-called fish farmers have worsened the situation, reducing the Kabodak to merely water pockets at places, said Tapan Kumar Saha, chairman of Joynagar union parishad (UP) and Anwarul Islam, chairman of Dera UP in Kalaroa upazila.

A correspondent reports from Benapole: About two lakh people living in 120 villages of bordering Sharsha upazila have been suffering from waterlogging for the last 20 years due to silting of Ichhamoti River.

A 13-kilometre Makhla-Ichhamoti canal was dug during the later part of Pakistan period to drain out water of six beels (large water bodies) -- Thengramari, Makhla, Kemi, Deye, Dadkhali and Setai and make the area cultivable.

During 1996-98, Sonamukhi canal was connected with Makhla-Ichhamoti canal by excavating about 10 kilometres from Makhla beel to Amrakhali.

Silt started depositing in the Ichhamoti River and the bed of the beel gradually went up as the water of vast low-lying land and big beels in Sharsha Bonmandar and Sonamukhi flows into Ichhamoti canal in the rainy season following excavation of the canals, said Rabiul Hossain, a member of Goga union parishad.

Water from India coming through the river also flows into Ichhamoti River, adding to the floods in 120 villages in Makhla, Setai, Kemi, Deye and Dadkhali beel areas.



PHOTO: STAR

This lake having a beautiful sculpture on the Liberation War victory in Chandpur town is used by locals for bathing and household works. But it has become awfully polluted as unscrupulous people continue to dump garbage there, with the authorities turning a blind eye.

3 touchstone statues seized, 8 held in Faridpur, Sirajganj

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Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Faridpur and Sirajganj districts has recovered three touchstone statues and arrested eight people.

Our Correspondent in Faridpur reports: Rab-8 seized two touchstone statues and arrested six people in separate raids at Saltha and Boalmari upazilas early yesterday and on Wednesday.

Rab sources said: a Rab team raided the house of Shihbath Ghosh of Daharnagar village under Boalmari upazila yesterday and recovered a Krishna statue weighing around 2.4 kg.

In another raid on Wednesday, they recovered a white stone of Buddha weighing around 6.5 kg from the house of Yunus Sheikh of Sajjankanda village under Saltha upazila.

They also arrested Shihbath Ghosh, Arun Kumar Sarkar, Mahubur Rahman, Abdur Rob Sheikh, Yunus Sheikh and Joyal Abedin in this connection.

The recovered statues and the arrestees were handed over to local police. Separate cases were filed with Saltha and Boalmari police stations.

Our Correspondent in Sirajganj reports: Rab-12 arrested two people along with

a touchstone statue of Lord Vishnu worth around Tk 10 crore from Chengtia village in Ullapara upazila on Tuesday night.

The arrestees are Serajul Islam Fakir, 37, of Chengtia village in Ullapara and Surjo Mohanto, 38, of Sherpur upazila in Bogra district.

According to Rab, a special team of Rab-12 led by deputy additional director (DAD) Abu Bakkar and Abdur Quader Mir raided Chengtia village and arrested the two along with the precious statue.

A case was lodged with Ullapara police station in this connection.

Barisal medical suffers for absence of intern docs

UNB, Barisal

Medical services at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital (SBMCH) are being hampered for long for absence of the intern doctors.

SBMCH sources said, the 500-bed hospital is the largest specialised medical service provider in Barisal division.

The hospital mostly depends on the intern doctors for round-the-clock treatment, medical care and other services, the sources said.

More than a hundred intern doctors of 37th batch of SBMCH left the hospital on November 14 on completion of their internship.

On other hand, final year MBBS results of next batch students were have not been published yet due to some alleged irregularities in conducting examinations, hospital sources said.

In this situation, patients admitted in the hospital are now virtually deprived of proper treatment.

A few senior and junior doctors visit the patients on call once or twice a day, sources said.

The regular doctors often keep busy at outdoor and emergency departments besides practice at private chambers, patients alleged.

Under the circumstances, on average 75-100 patients leave the hospital every day and take treatment at private clinics and hospitals in the city, patients and hospital sources said.

SBMCH Director Dr Dharendra Nath Sardar said, they informed the higher authorities about the situation and suggested to increase posts of regular doctors to tackle crisis and emergency.

Medical College Principal Prof Dr Syed Zahid Hossain said the problem is temporary and would be solved 'within a couple of days'.

But, he could not say any specified date for publishing final year results of the 38th batch and starting their internship.

Unnatural deaths of 17 BM College students in 2 yrs

UNB, Barisal

At least 17 students of Barisal BM College met unnatural deaths in the last two years, according to police records.

Of the dead, three students allegedly committed suicide and five others died in road accidents.

Jasimuddin Sajib of history department drowned while swimming in the college pond on August 24 this year.

Zahirul Islam of political science department died allegedly due to wrong treatment on November 17 and Rubel Khan of sociology department was electrocuted on November 20 this year.

College sources said, Rafiqul Islam, a masters student of Bangla department, died on the spot as a tree fell on him during cyclone Sidr on November 15, 2007.

Manzurul Islam Rubel, final year student of

zoology department and Jharna and Koli Shikdar of management department allegedly committed suicide in 2008.

Shahidul Islam of economics department, Niranjana of physics department, Tanushree Sanyam and Sumon of sociology department, Albert Shikdar Tota of mathematics department were killed in road accidents during the period.

Al-Amin of social welfare department and Mishti of management department died of alleged neglect of physicians and wrong treatment.

Ripon of management department was stabbed to death by muggers on his way to sister's home at Savar on the outskirts of the capital.

Nazmun Nahar of social welfare department died as a boat capsized in a river amid strong storms and Sumon of philosophy department was electrocuted while playing cricket.

Eid today in 50 Chandpur villages

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

The holy Eid-ul Azha will be celebrated in about 50 villages under four upazilas of Chandpur district today.

Maulana Abu Zafar of Sadra village in Hajiganj upazila said the first Eid congregation will be held at Sadra Madrasa ground at 10:30am.

Eid and other religious functions are being celebrated in those villages every year in conformity with Saudi Arabia.

The villages include Sadra, Shamsheerpur, Olipur, Bolakhal, Monihar, Bholachou, Jakni, Sonachou, Protappur and Basara in Hajiganj upazila; Ubharampur, Utoli, Munshirhat, Mulapara, Badarpur, Aitpara, Surangchar, Baluthuba, Kaitapara, Nurpur, Sachonmegh, Shola, Hansha, Gobindapur in Faridganj upazila; and Doshani, Mohanpur and Panchani in Matlab upazila.

Kushtia, Magura BNP factions hold councils, form bodies

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Rival factions held separate councils of BNP Kushtia and Magura units and declared separate committees yesterday and the day before.

In Kushtia, Sohrab Uddin group held its conference at Kushtia Shilpakala Academy where Shamsuzzaman Dudu, agricultural affairs secretary of BNP central committee, was the chief guest, reports our correspondent.

Former lawmaker Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi and Sohrab Uddin were declared president and general secretary in the second session of the conference.

Another faction led by Minhajur Rahman Alo organised its conference at Kushtia

Law College. After the inaugural session, the councillors belonging to this faction elected Alo and Ansar Uddin Pramanik president and general secretary.

Both factions also declared the committees of all six upazilas, municipality and town units at their councils.

Our Magura correspondent reported that two separate committees of the district unit were formed on Wednesday.

Kabir Murad led faction held its council on the premises of Kasundi Union Parishad office in Parnaduali area while advocate Mokaddes Hossain group held their council at the district unit office.

BNP central committee Joint Secretary General Selima Rahman was the chief guest at

the council with Kabir Murad in the chair. It was addressed, among others, by district unit leaders advocate Ahmed Hossain, Newaj Halima Arley, Ahsan Habib Kishore, Monowar Hossain Khan and advocate Rokonzaman.

A full-fledged committee of the district unit with Kabir Murad as president and Ali Ahmed Biswas as general secretary was announced at the council.

Chaired by Mokaddes Hossain, the conference of the faction was addressed by district BNP leader Iqbal Akhter Khan Kafur, former general secretary of the district unit Mohammad Nazimuddin, Mohammadpur upazila unit joint conveners Akhteruzzaman and Matir

Rahman, and Sreepur upazila unit joint conveners Badrul Alam Hero and Khalilur Rahman.

This faction also formed a full-fledged committee with advocate Mokaddes Hossain as president and Iqbal Akhter Khan Kafur as general secretary.

Meanwhile, Section 144 was imposed in and around Abdul Jalil High School ground in Ashuganj Bandar town yesterday as rival factions of upazila BNP held meetings at the same place at the same time.

Apprehending untoward incident, Ashuganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Saiful Islam imposed restriction on holding rallies and processions in and around the school ground.

'FALSE' EXTORTION CASES Journalists continue protest in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Journalists held protest meetings yesterday in at least three upazilas in Netrakona demanding withdrawal of 'false' extortion cases against two of their fellow newsmen last Friday.

Shahidul Islam of village Dubarajpur under Durgapur upazila, a close aide to lawmaker Mostaque Ahmed Ruhi, filed cases against The Daily Star correspondent Jahangir Alam and Jai Jai Din correspondent Mizanur Rahman Nannu.

Sources said, the cases followed publication of news items on opening of alleged dubious bank account by MP Ruhi in the two dailies on November 15 and November 19.

The protest meeting held at Madan Upazila Press Club yesterday evening was presided by Motahar Hossain, president of Madan Reporters' Club. It was addressed by Zakir Hossain Ujjal, president of local press club, journalists yusuf Ali Talukder, Poritosh Das, Shamsul Alam Bhuiyan, Shajahan Bhuiyan and Tofazzal Hossain.

The speakers at the meeting demanded immediate withdrawal of the 'false' cases and punishment to the petitioner.

Later, the journalists of Madan submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through Madan UNO SM Abdul Kader and sent its copies to home minister and information minister.

Another protest rally held at Purbadhala was presided by Ali Ahmed Khan Ayub, president of Purbadhala Press Club. Journalists Zulfikar Ali Shahin, Ismail Hossain Khokon, Golam Mostafa and Shafiqul Alam Shahin spoke at the meeting.

Kendua Press Club organised a similar meeting at the local press club premises.

Presided by Alamgir Chowdhury, it was addressed by Samarendra Biswas, general secretary of Kendua Press Club, journalists Anisur Rahman Anju, Santosh Sarkar, Ashrafuddin Bhuiyan, Hares Uddin Fakir, Rakhal Biswas, Ainal Haque and Rafiqul Islam.

They also submitted a memorandum to prime minister and sent copies to home minister and information minister through Kendua UNO Obaidur Rahman.

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