

Another embankment collapses in Khulna

600 more families in 8 villages homeless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Erosion by River Dhaki damaged one more embankment at Jainagar village of Kamarkhola union under Dakope upazila of Khulna district on Wednesday, rendering at least 600 families of eight villages homeless.

The embankment constructed by Water Development Board (WDB) last month collapsed at 5:30pm on Wednesday when Food Minister Abdur Razzak was visiting Aila-affected Dakope upazila to distribute VGF rice.

Earlier on Monday night and Tuesday morning, two other embankments in Sutarkhali and Kamarkhola unions under Dakope upazila collapsed, flooding 18 villages.

Around 10,600 families have become homeless as 26 villages of Dakope upazila are flooded due to collapse of

three newly constructed embankments in last 72 hours.

Several thousand people including men, women and children have taken shelter on any available places that are yet to be flooded.

The eight villages affected by Wednesday's flooding are Jainagar, Rajnagar, Jelakhali, Channir Chawk, Parjoinagar, Shibnagar, Fakirdanga and Srinagar.

WDB Engineer Anowar Hossain, who supervised construction of the embankments last month, said breaches developed in the three embankments as furious tides of Dhaki River rose up to five to six feet higher than normal levels.

Dakope UNO Kazi Atiur Rahman and upazila Chairman Sheikh Abul Hossain insisted on their earlier allegation that there were flaws in construction work of embankments as

materials specified in the tender schedule were not used.

WDB Engineer Anowar Hossain was responsible to monitor whether the contractors concerned followed the terms and conditions of tender schedule, they said.

Shukjan Bibi, 60, wife of fisherman Shawrup Sarder, was washed away at 3:30pm on Wednesday at Kalabogi village under Dakope upazila as Shibsha River suddenly devoured part of a newly constructed embankment on which she was walking.

The government has allocated Tk 2 crore 50 lakh under cash-for-work programme for Aila-affected Dakope upazila, Food Minister Abdur Razzak said while visiting the flooded villages on Wednesday.

The government will continue to provide farmers with food assistance as long as they need it, he said.



A hapless family, boarded onto a boat with belongings, starts an unsure journey for shelter after their home was flooded following collapse of an embankment at Joynagar in Dakope upazila of Khulna district on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Sec 144 at B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Brahmanbaria district administration imposed Section 144 around Bashudeb Primary School playground yesterday as two Islamic groups called mehfil at the same venue. According to villagers and Deputy Commissioner's office sources, Ahle Sunnat Al Jamaat called an was mehfil (Islamic gathering) marking Eid-e-Miladunnabi at Bashudeb Primary School playground under Sadar upazila. Another group belonging to Kawmi Madrasa called a counter programme at the same venue to stop Ahle Sunnat from holding was. As tension ran high, District Magistrate Md Haiul Quaium imposed Section 144 on the venue from 6:00 am to 12 midnight.

Under trial prisoner dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

An under trial prisoner at Bogra district jail died at a local hospital yesterday while he was undergoing treatment there. Md Motalab Hossain alias Shotka, 25, died at Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital at 5:30 am yesterday, jail sources said. Bogra Sadar police said, Shotka, accused in a murder case with Sherpur police station was produced before the court of Bogra Chief Judicial Magistrate on October 11 last year. The court ordered to send him to jail. Shotka fell ill at the district jail on March 2 and was admitted to the hospital.

Foundation of river port laid

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Shipping minister Md Shahjahan Khan yesterday laid the foundation stone for construction of modern river port of the district. Speaking at a meeting on Barisal river port premises the minister said, 24,000 kilometre river routes in the country have become ineffective. To maintain navigability of the routes 50 dredgers are required now but only 16 are available while four of them privately owned. He said the government has taken up a Tk 11,500 crore project for river dredging. The minister also announced that marine academy would be established in Barisal. The BIWTA chairman said that Tk 17.60 crore has been allocated for Barisal modern river port project. The target for completion of the project is June 30, 2011.



Students and teachers of Rangpur Carmichael College brought out a procession yesterday as part of the anti-corruption campaign organised by Youth Engagement Support Group and Sachetan Nagarik Committee, Rangpur.

Fire makes 50 shelterless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

At least 50 people lost shelter as a fire burnt "Nazuma Asrayan Kendro" (home) in Nazuma area under Bogra Sadar upazila early yesterday. Locals said, the fire caught in the mosquito net of Jainal, 50, at the Kendro soon engulfed all the rooms rendering 50 people of 10 families shelterless. At least 16 children of the homeless families spent without food till yesterday noon. The victims estimated the loss at Tk 50 lakh as the fire burnt cattle and household utensils.

BCL cadre arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested a Chhatra League (BCL) cadre from Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute (RPI) on charge of stabbing a Chhatra Moitree leader. Arrestee Wasiur Rahman was a first year student of electro medical department and suspected killer of Chhatra Moitree leader Sunny, said Jasim Uddin, OC of Boalia police station. Anik stabbed the Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute unit Moitree general secretary Sajjadur Rahman Sujon at around 12:30pm as the latter called police seeing him on the campus. Sujon handed Anik over to police, said police and witnesses. Sujon was later admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital. Rezwanul Islam Chowdhury Sunny, the institute unit Moitree vice-president was killed in a BCL attack on January 7.

14 smokers fined

UNB, Barisal

A mobile court here on Monday fined 14 people for smoking in public places in the town. The mobile court led by administrative magistrate Tarafdar Mahmudur Rahman launched anti-smoking drive at Fazlul Huq Avenue, Port Road, DC office, post office, land revenue office and in court compound in the town on Monday noon. The court fined 14 people Tk 50 each as they were found smoking in public places.

KILLING OF 127 VILLAGERS IN 1971

AL leader, seven others sued in Habiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Eight people, including an Awami League leader, were yesterday sued on charge of killing 127 villagers at Krishnapur village under Lakhai upazila of Habiganj district during Liberation War.

Haridas Roy of the village filed the case with Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court, Habiganj, against Lakhai upazila AL President Liakat Ali and seven others.

The other accused are Badsha Miah, Omar Ali and Morshed Kamal of Lakhai upazila, Ahad Miah and Azizur Rahman

of Nasirnagar upazila under Brahmanbaria district, and Lal Khan Miah and Aminul Haque of Austagram upazila under Kishoreganj district.

In the case statement, Haridas alleged that Pakistani occupation forces with the help of the then razakar commander Liakat (now upazila AL president) and seven other accused surrounded Krishnapur village in the early hours of September 18, 1971 and picked up 128 people including him.

They took the villagers to a nearby field and sprayed bullets on them, killing 127

on the spot, Haridas said, adding that he fortunately escaped death.

The complainant further alleged that five people, including Liakat's father, were sentenced to five years RI in a case for robbery at the house of Dr Kuja Mohan Roy of Krishnapur village in 1967 and Liakat took revenge for that in 1971.

Accepting the case, the judicial magistrate asked the officer-in-charge of Lakhai Police Station to submit a report to the court after proper investigation.

Two Jamaat leaders held while leading procession

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Police yesterday arrested two Jamaat-e-Islami leaders of Kishoreganj district unit while leading a procession in the town protesting what they said repression by the government.

The procession was part of the programme announced by Jamaat's central body to protest the recent crackdown on its activists and leaders across the country.

The arrestees are Ramjan Ali, secretary of Kishoreganj district unit of Jamaat and Azizul Huq, the unit's publicity secretary.

Witnesses said as the procession reached Gouranga Bazaar, activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League attacked and dispersed the Jamaat men.

Police said the Jamaat leaders were arrested as they were trying to break the police barricade. Mir Musharraf Hossain, officer-in-charge

(OC) of Kishoreganj Sadar police station said Jamaat did not take permission from the authorities to take out a procession in the town.

However, Jamaat later held a rally at Nagua bus stand to protest the arrest of their leaders.

In Kurigram, a suspected Shibir activist was arrested by Rab-5 from Bhurungamari upazila, reports our correspondent.

Arrestee Rezaul Haque, 26, is a fourth year student of Islamic Studies at Rajshahi University and son of Solyman Ali of Paglarhat area under Shiliguri union in Bhurungamari upazila.

According to police, a team of Rab-5 raided the area and arrested him at about 7:30 pm. Rezaul was arrested on charge of his involvement in the clash after the killing of Rajshahi University student Faruk Hossain.

Rab later handed him over to Bhurungamari police station.

Trading thru' Benapole stops again

UNB, Benapole

Export-import activities between Bangladesh and India through Benapole land port came to a halt again yesterday morning.

Benapole Customs Cargo officer Debashis Chandra said trading through the land port remained suspended due to the conference of the CPM backed labour organisation.

General Secretary of Petapole C&F Agents Welfare Association Kartik Chandra said trading through the land port remained suspended as the labourers are reluctant to join duties due to the conference.

Meghna devours land of shipyard, cement factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A portion of the land belonging to ship exporting firm Ananda Shipyard and Tiger brand cement factory of Madina Group in Meghna industrial estate at Sonargaon upazila in Narayanganj went into the river early Wednesday.

It happened all of a sudden spreading panic among the employees and workers of the two organisations. At least 10 workers of the two firms were injured as they ran helter skelter for safety.

The authorities of the two firms filed general diaries with the local police station blaming each other for causing the river erosion. Ananda Shipyard officials said if the erosion continued the firm's ship building work would have to be stopped and orders for exporting ships would slip away causing a loss

of about Tk 100 crore.

Madina Group which produces Tiger brand cement belongs to former Awami League lawmaker Haji Selim.

Manager (Administration) of Ananda Shipyard Mizanur Rahman said a substantial area of land including the guide wall has been devoured by the river. He said different equipment and iron scraps used for shipbuilding worth about one crore taka went into the river.

The shipyard in the GD blamed Madina Group for the erosion saying the group had filled up the land for setting up Tiger Cement Factory by lifting sand from the Meghna River illegally and in an unplanned way.

Deputy General Manager (DGM) of Tiger Cement Factory in the GD alleged that a huge portion of their firm went into the river as Ananda Shipyard carried out illegal dredging for keeping their ships.

Sec 144 imposed to avert AL brawl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday prevented two rival factions of Awami League Biswanath upazila unit from holding rallies on the premises of the upazila parishad at the same time.

The local administration imposed Section 144 in and around the upazila parishad Wednesday evening as the AL factions--one led by upazila Chairman Muhibur Rahman and the other by upazila AL President Muzammil and General Secretary Babul Akhter--convened meetings at the same venue at the same time.

Police intercepted a procession of Muhibur led faction near Basia Bridge at around 2:30pm. About 500 AL men joined the procession and were marching toward the meeting venue defying Section 144. Later the processionists held a rally in front of the upazila chairman's house.

Another faction under the banner of upazila Jubo League and Chhatra League took out a

procession from Al-Hera market area. When the procession led by upazila AL President Muzammil and General Secretary Babul Akhter reached near the meeting venue, police stopped it. Failing to hold rally on the upazila parishad premises, the processionists went back to Local AL office.

The feud between the two factions surfaced anew after about 50 AL men belonging to Muzammil-Babul Akhter faction, equipped with sticks attacked the upazila parishad office Tuesday afternoon, alleging that the UZ chairman made a comment against lawmaker Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury.

They ransacked upazila chairman's office and damaged his jeep. Upazila Chairman Muhibur, escaped the attack as he took shelter at a toilet. But his driver and two others were injured in the attack.

The UZ chairman alleged that some unruly party men, backed by the lawmaker Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, attacked him as he protested 'corruption' of the lawmaker.

Three Shibir men held in Rajshahi

Jihadi books seized from female dorms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested three activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, also students of Rajshahi University (RU), from Bagmara and RU campus.

Police also raided five Shibir-controlled private dormitories for female students of different educational institutions in the city and seized seven jihadi books from one of them.

One of the arrestees, Abdur Razzak, a final year student of Islamic studies at RU, is an accused in the case filed by Humayun Kabir, a resident student of Ziaur Rahman Hall of RU, who was assaulted by Shibir cadres during their attacks on February 9, said Motiur Bhattacharya, assistant commissioner of

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP).

Abdur Razzak, a final year student of Islamic studies at RU, was arrested from his village home at Nandanpur in Bagmara in the morning, said Bagmara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Harunur Rashid.

Police also picked up Atiur Rahman, a final year student of applied chemistry department and resident student of Sohrwardi Hall, and Mahmudul Hasan, a fourth year student of Islamic Studies and resident of Abdul Latif Hall of RU, from the campus.

Blank answer sheets of applied chemistry examinations were found at the room of Atiur Rahman during February 25 joint raids on Sohrwardi Hall, said Motiur Bhattacharya, assistant commissioner of

and hall authorities suspect that such blank answer sheets were used for taking unfair means in the examinations.

The police raided the private female students' hostels -- Ujir Manjil Chhatra Nibash beside Rajshahi City College, Green Valley Chhatra Nibash at Malopara, Noor Mohol, Paragon at Hatim Khan and Shanti Niketon near Paramedical Institute for two hours from 7:00am. The seven jihadi books were seized from Paragon.

Police raided the private female students' hostels for the first time after they got information that the residents were helping fugitive Shibir leaders by providing information, said RMP Commissioner M Nawsher Ali. However, none was arrested from the hostels.

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