

Nagarbari terminal faces Jamuna erosion threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

More than two hundred families have shifted their houses and over 500 acres of croplands have gone under water during the last three weeks as erosion by Jamuna River has taken a serious turn in Bera upazila under the district.

The river port terminal at Nagarbari, the largest fertiliser depot in the northern region, is also under threat as most of Nagarbari-Notakhola road has gone under water, port sources said.

"In Nagarbari, over 350 large warehouses contain-

ing fertiliser worth about Tk 150 crore are facing the threat of erosion as the river is now only 300 feet away. Immediate step is needed to protect Nagarbari port," said Pura Varendra Union Parishad Chairman Md Rafiqul Islam, also secretary of Nagarbari Port Terminal Traders Association.

Water Development Board (WDB) has dumped only 1500 sand bags to prevent erosion at Nagarbari but it is too inadequate, official sources said.

At least 20 villages beside the Jamuna River in two unions of Bera upazila are facing the erosion threat, locals said.

Nagarbari, Raghunathpur, Protappur, Gonopodia, Char Panchakola and Kazirhat are some of the badly affected villages.

Jamuna River has devoured at least 300 acres of crop fields in Char Panchakola village where 120 families have shifted their houses during the last three weeks, said Bera Upazila Parishad Chairman Md Azizul Haque Arzu.

A primary school and a mosque in this village are also under the threat of erosion.

Over 60 families at Kazirhat and Notakhola villages in the upazila also shifted their houses and

150 acres of cultivated lands have gone under water due to the erosion, the upazila chairman said.

In Gonopodi village, 10 houses were shifted recently due to the erosion, he said.

Contacted, Bera WDB Sub Divisional Engineer Md Anisur Rahman said, "A large project covering 1.5 kilometre area from Nagarbari to Raghunathpur has been taken to ensure protection of Nagarbari. The project will start after the rainy season. The emergency work will be conducted this year."



Water Development officials with the help of locals put sand bags in eroded portion to stop onslaught by the river Jamuna in Bera upazila. The site is only around 300 feet from Nagarbari terminal.

Faridpur medical college interns on strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Interns at Faridpur Medical College and Hospital began a wildcat strike Sunday night after a patient assaulted a female intern, hospital source said.

The incident occurred at about 8:00 pm when Atikul Islam, 21, a patient of male medicine ward slapped on-duty intern Beauty Chakma.

All the 75 interns stopped working immediately after the incident.

They yesterday placed 7-point demand to Dr Guru Das Sikder, superintendent of the hospital for punishment to the attacker and tightening of security at FMCH.

The interns also agitated in front of the office of the superintendent.

Dr Guru Das Sikder called an emergency meeting at his office at around 2:30 pm yesterday and assured the interns of taking steps after investigating the incident.

Among others, Dr ASM Jahangir Chowdhury Tito, vice principal of the medical college, Dr Khobirul Islam, lecturer of MATS, Dr Shafiqur Rahman attended the meeting.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (revenue) Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan also visited the hospital and assured the interns of necessary action after the investigation but to no effect.

While visiting the hospital this correspondent found that patients at different wards, specially emergency and surgical, medicine and general, were suffering much for the strike.

Kabir Hossain, a relative of a patient at the female medicine ward said, a number of serious patients have left the hospital in the morning for fear of getting no treatment.

Contacted, Dr Gurudas said, "We are trying to bring the situation under control".

Meanwhile, patient Atikul, who insulted Beauty Chakma, fled the hospital yesterday morning.

Banned guide books on sale defying HC directive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A section of bookstall owners have continued sale of banned note books and guide books in different upazilas of Sirajganj district as there is hardly any action against the authorities concerned are turning blind eyes.

A High Court directive, which prohibits printing, publication, supply and sale of note books and guide books, keeps provision for seven years of rigorous imprisonment or fine of Tk 25,000 or both for breach of the rule.

But a number of printing presses in Sirajganj town are involved in printing and supply of the notes and guides using the names of some renowned Dhaka-based publications or libraries like Jupiter, Panjery, Palki, Anupam, Internet, Lecture, Galaxy, Jhalak, Star

and Newton.

Some influential bookstall owners at Station Road and Bahirgola, locally called 'Boi Patti', are carrying out the trade of banned notes and guidebooks allegedly after managing some dishonest officials of district administration. Even, some textbook suppliers, headmasters and leaders of different teachers' organisations in exchange of good sums.

During this correspondent's visit to different schools in nine upazilas of the district, many students said they have already gotten all of the required

notes or guidebooks.

They said they have to read the guides, as most of the teachers do not teach well in classes.

"In most cases, teachers tell us to memorise the lessons at home. So, we read the notes or guides to learn the answers to questions," said a student.

"If a teacher discusses the lessons properly in the class, students would not need notes or guides. But students still depend on notes or guidebooks, as many teachers fail to perform their duty in classes," said a teacher seeking anonymity.

"A student can make good results by reading the main textbook with attention. There is no need for any note or guidebook for this," said Latifa Khanom, acting headmaster of BL Government High School in Sirajganj

town.

This correspondent also visited a number of bookstalls in Sirajganj town.

A few stall owners seeking anonymity said they sell the note books and guide books to the students secretly through some agents who are involved with different schools. For this purpose, they pay give some financial benefit to the teachers.

Several printing presses in the town, involved in printing and supply of the notes and guidebooks, use the names of a few renowned publications of Dhaka, they added.

When contacted, Sirajganj Deputy Commissioner Md Humayun Kabir said there will soon be drive against the illegal activities with the help of mobile courts.



A farmer at Jinnahagar of Rajshahi cleaning a drain to ensure water supply to his field as vegetables are dying there for want of rain.

Nor'wester hits 2 Gaibandha upazilas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A nor'wester damaged a large number of dwelling houses and boro crops on vast tract in Gaibandha Sadar and Sundarganj upazila early yesterday.

Over 300 dwelling houses were razed to the ground while tin roofs of many other houses and educational institutions blown away.

Torrential rain accompanied the storm, locals said.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said they are yet to get exact picture of crop damage due to storm.

Fruit-bearing trees were damaged while power supply remained cut off as electric poles uprooted in many places.

KIBRIA MURDER CASE Date for further investigation report deferred again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday again deferred the date for submission of the report on further investigation into former finance minister Kibria murder case.

Judge Md Mahbulul Islam of the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal deferred the date to May 24 as Special Public Prosecutor Kishore Kumar Kar sought time extension, saying that CID needs some more time to finish its investigation, court sources said.

Former finance minister SAMS Kibria, his nephew advocate Shah Manzurul Huda, local AL leaders Abdur Rahim, Abul Hossain and Siddique Ali were killed in a grenade attack at a public meeting at Baiderbazar under



Habiganj Sadar upazila on the night of January 27, 2005.

case following a petition by the then Investigation officer Munshi Atique on March 7, 2007.

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on March 8 this year arrested Huji operative Mizanur Rahman Mithu in connection with Kibria murder case. Mithu gave confessional statement before the judicial magistrate, Habiganj, the following day.

The CID then took former state minister for home Luthfozzaman Babar on remand in connection with the case.

CID ASP Rafiqul Islam, also the investigation officer of the case, told this correspondent they need some more time to submit the report on further investigation. He however said they will finish the task by the end of this month.

Tk 80cr allocated for KU projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Government has allocated over Tk 80 crore to implement different development projects of Khulna University.

This is so far the highest allocation of fund for the university approved by the Ecne, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Mohammad Saifuddin Shah told this correspondent last week.

The infrastructural development work under the projects include Tk 19crore 35lakh and 22,000 for completing ground and first floors of the third academic building and expansion of third and fourth floors of the same building, Tk 17crore for construction of a new residential hall for male students, Tk 17crore for a new residential hall for women students, Tk 7crore 83lakh and 15,000 for construction of central library of the university, Tk 6crore 3lakh and 80,000 for expansion work of Aparajita residential hall, Tk 2crore and 95lakh for building a guest house-cum-club, Tk 2crore 2lakh and 38,000 for expansion

of third floor of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah hall, Tk 1crore 68lakh and 45,000 for construction of a research centre, Tk 1crore and 62lakh for purchasing furniture, Tk 85lakh for setting up a fitness centre, Tk 76lakh for construction of internal roads of the university, Tk 52lakh for installation of deep tubewells and Tk 1crore and 92lakh for other purposes like expansion of water supply lines, earth filling work, construction of drains and setting up electricity lines, purchase of microbus, expansion of playground of the university and completion of the unfinished work of central Shaheed Minar of the university.

The university in the last 18 years received only Tk 75crore 80lakh for various development work, sources said.

Contacted, the vice chancellor in his reaction congratulated the government of prime minister Sheikh Hasina for allocating recently the 'handsome amount' at a time for implementation of different infrastructural development work.

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