

Jamuna devours another 100 metres of Sirajganj dyke

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sirajganj

The turbulent Jamuna devoured another 100-metre stretch of Sirajganj town protection embankment at Hard Point early yesterday.

With this, the dyke caved in thrice since July 18. Water Development Board (WDB) sources said the Jamuna claimed 275-metre of the 2.5-kilometre-long embankment in a week.

They said 70-metre stretch of the Hard Point in old Jail area collapsed into the river on the night of July 18, 105-metre on July 22 while 100-metre early yesterday.

Local administration and Water Development Board raised red flags at the vulnerable points of the dyke. Executive Engineer of Sirajganj WDB Abdul Malek said 50,155 concrete blocks and 45,000 sand bags have been dumped on the vulnerable points to stop any further damage to the embankment.

Water level in the Jamuna marked a further rise yesterday. The river was flowing six centimetres above the danger level at Sirajganj point.



PHOTO: STAR

Fresh hundred metres of the Hard Point of Sirajganj Town Protection Embankment collapsed into Jamuna River early yesterday, much to the worries of the townspeople.

Built in 1997 by a South Korean company with a 100 years' guarantee, parts of the town protection embankment collapsed on July 19 in 2010 and twice in 2009. Locals brought allegation against the authorities concerned of misappropriation in the repair of

the dyke.

While visiting the breached portion at the hard point of Sirajganj town protection embankment on Saturday, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen said the two affected

spots will be repaired at any cost.

Steps have already been taken to prevent breach in other parts of the hard point, the minister said, adding that capital dredging in the river at Sirajganj point will be started soon.

The government has spent Tk 48 crore on repair works at Hard Point of the town protection embankment this year. But locals have brought allegation against the authorities concerned of misappropriation in the repair of the dyke.

Sramik League men in Sylhet occupy Zila Parishad land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

District Truck Sramik League men occupied a plot of commercial land, worth around one crore taka, in the city's Mehdibagh area on Sunday.

They hung a signboard there yesterday and police failed to force them out.

Contacted, chief executive officer of Zila Parishad Harun Ur-Rashid Molla told this correspondent that legal measures will be taken against the occupants of the government plot soon.

Locals said the truck workers set up a tin shed structure on a portion of the Zila Parishad land, adjacent to the Sylhet Law College near Hazrat Shahjalal Bridge on Sunday.

On information, the Zila Parishad men rushed to the site and asked the truckers not to erect any structure on the said land. But the workers claimed they had permission from the city mayor.

The officials then asked them to appear at the Zila Parishad office along with papers, but they failed to turn up with those till yesterday

afternoon.

Molla said although the Truck Sramik League men first claimed that the mayor had permitted them to use the plot, they came to the office yesterday only to say that the mayor had permitted them 'verbally'.

A police team was sent to the site at about 4:00 pm yesterday, but they had to return in the face of protests by the arrogant Truck Sramik League men, the official said.

"We shall go for the legal steps. The land must be recovered at any cost", the official said.

Contacted, District Truck Sramik League president Abu Sarker said that they will use the land temporarily. "The mayor and other leaders gave us the permission to use the land which had been lying vacant for long. We would leave the place soon after the truck terminal is established", he said.

However, SCC Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran yesterday refuted Abu Sarker's claim.

The land belongs to the Zila Parishad and they are the authority to see the matter. SCC has nothing to do in this regard, he said.

Follow-up

Two of three accused of assaulting headmistress arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Police on Sunday night arrested two of the three accused in a case for assaulting the headmistress of Udoypur Registered Primary School in Sujanagar upazila of the district.

The arrestees are Md Zahid, son of Md Abul Kalam, chairman of the school managing committee (SMC), and Md Abdul Kader, a supporter of the SMC chairman.

Police produced them in the Speedy Trial Tribunal that sent them to jail.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sujanagar Police Station Md Shamsul Islam said they arrested Kader at Hatkhali village at around 7:00pm and Zahid from a house at Udoypur village at around 8:30pm.

Headmistress Hasina Khatun filed the case with Sujanagar Police Station on Saturday against three men on charge of assaulting her at noon.

According to the case statement, the accused beat up the headmistress on the premises of Udoypur Registered Primary School for not meeting the demand for giving them Tk 10,000 from Tk 32,000 that was allocated for development of the school from TR fund.

The accused are Md Abdur Razzak and Md Zahid, sons of SMC chairman Md Abul Kalam, and Md Abdul Kader, also a man of the chairman. The case against the three was recorded under the Speedy Trial Act.

Meanwhile, president of Primary Teachers Association Sujanagar unit Md Abdus Sattar and secretary Md Idris Ali in a joint statement yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits who assaulted headmistress Hasina Khatun.

Townspeople 'free' municipal land from grabbers in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Hundreds of townspeople yesterday 'freed' the waste dumping land of the municipality from a group of influential land grabbers yesterday.

As the grabbers occupied the land for three days, Md Jahangir Alam, BNP backed mayor of Dinajpur municipality called an emergency public meeting here at Lokhaban on Sunday afternoon.

Chaired by mayor himself, the meeting decided to retake the land within Monday morning as all the townspeople vowed to help him in this regard.

The speakers at the meeting slated Bunu Biswas, headmaster of Jubilee High School for grabbing the municipal land and using another teacher Md Akram Hossain for 'managing' local journalists of national dailies on Friday morning.

They also urged the deputy commissioner to look into the incident.

Vowing not to spare an inch of the land, hundreds of residents gathered in front of Dinajpur municipality yesterday to free the waste dumping land.

At around 11:00am, a silent procession with garbage trucks led by the mayor marched towards the grabbed land at Rajrampur village. About 800 people from all walks of life and a few commissioners participated in the procession.

Moments after the procession reached the spot, angry protesters removed the signboards from the land and bamboo made fences erected by the land grabbers. Later the municipal garbage trucks entered the area and dumped the wastes. The angry residents also dismantled the structures built on the land.

Earlier on Thursday night, a group of influential people of the town

grabbed at least 7.6 acres land of Dinajpur municipality and hung four signboards with separate names there.

The next day, the land grabbers and their hired goons resisted municipal staff and turned away the garbage vehicles.

The hired goons also threatened them of dire consequences if they come again for dumping wastes.

The land at Rajrampur village under Sadar upazila is around 4 km away from the municipal town.

The mayor said that the 8.6 acres of land was allocated to Dinajpur municipality in 1963 for dumping wastes of the town. Later in 2002, one acre of land was donated to Dinajpur City College for building its complex near the land.

Md Golam Nabi, sanitary inspector of the municipality filed a case with Dinajpur police station accusing three people of land grabbing.



PHOTO: STAR

Angry townspeople remove a signboard of a claimant from the municipal waste dumping ground at Rajrampur, 4 kilometers off Dinajpur town, yesterday. The 7.6 acre land was occupied by some local influential men on Thursday

PATUAKHALI FORGERY CASE

Passports seized by Rab are only 'the tip of an iceberg'

DC's probe body submits report

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

The committee formed by Patuakhali deputy commissioner (DC) to probe the sensational 'passport forgery,' submitted its report to the DC on Sunday.

According to the three-page report, five times more passports were issued in the last six months, from January to June in 2011, compared to police verification reports submitted during the period.

The passport office here issued 10,140 passports in the aforesaid time while Detective Security Branch (DSB) of police sent clearance (verification) for only 2,300.

The report also said that 2,054 passports were issued in 20 days, from July 1 to 20, while DSB sent only 225 clearance reports.

So far 12,194 passports were issued in six months and 20 days, from January 1 to July 20, this year whereas only 1,799 passports issued in seven

Follow-up

months from January to July in 2010.

According to the probe report, an identified gang delivered passports to people residing outside Patuakhali and Baguna districts. They did it by changing photos on old passports and removing original names and addresses from it.

Meanwhile, another probe committee formed by the Department of Information and Passport yesterday concluded its investigation into the seizure of 350 fake passports and 344 fake forms by Rab from the Patuakhali passport office on Thursday.

Mohammad Toufiqul Islam Khan, deputy director of the department, also the head of the one-member probe committee, yesterday said he seized various papers and articles for examination. The team is likely to

submit its report by August 5, he said.

Earlier, three passport office staff and five brokers were arrested on Thursday evening.

The arrestees include Shahjahan Howlader, assistant director of Patuakhali passport office, its office assistant Abul Hossain and MLSS Wahiduzzaman.

Shahjahan Howlader has already been suspended for his alleged involvement in issuing fake passport.

"Keeping the passport office under observation for long, Rab found that a section of brokers with the help of some officials were preparing and delivering *golakata* (fake) passports to people including pilgrims in exchange of huge money. Criminals and war criminals can use such fake passports to leave the country," said Nuruzzaman, company commander of Rab-8 in Patuakhali, who conducted Thursday's raid on the passport office.

Man killed, 10 injured as villagers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kushitia

A man was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two groups at Andulbaria village in Jibannagar upazila on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Bisharat Ali Khate, 65, a former UP member of Beka village in Jibonnagar.

Jibannagar police station OC Matiar Rahman said the clash took place on Saturday afternoon between Omar Ali group and Alim group over teasing a woman while bathing in a local pond. Both the groups attacked each other with sharp weapons, leaving 11 people injured.

Of the critically injured Bisharat Ali died on way to Rajshahi hospital.


Bisharat's three injured sons Ashraf Ali, 43, Abdul Alim, 39, Nizam Uddin, 35, and Omar Ali, 30, his father Mallik, 60, his brothers Bakkar, 40, and Sharif Uddin, 25, were admitted to Jibannagar and Chuadanga Sadar hospitals.

Police arrested Omar Ali and his two brothers-Bakkar and Sharif-in connection with the clash.

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