



PHOTO: STAR

The Padma has already devoured ferry terminal No 1 at Mawa in Munshiganj as onslaught of the river continues in the area, *above*, rescue teams of Fire Service and Civil Defence search for the five people who went missing after a big chunk of earth collapsed into the river at the terminal on Sunday night, and, *left*, around 200 goods-laden trucks get stranded at Mawa point as ferry operation is going on partially only through the vulnerable terminal No 3.

Erosion threatens to stop Mawa ferry services

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Munshiganj

Ferry services on Mawa-Kawrakandi route is facing the threat of a grinding halt as erosion by river Padma devoured terminal No. 1 on Sunday night while cracks developed in No. 4 ferry terminal.

The ferry operation is now continuing partially only through the vulnerable terminal No. 3.

Visiting the area yesterday, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan said that the government would take steps to set up three new terminals in a week to ease the situation ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

At least five staff of Bangladesh Inland Water

Transport Authority (BIWTA) were injured when the river washed away terminal No. 1 along with at least 15 shops.

Besides, five people went missing as over 100 people fell into the river when a big chunk of earth collapsed due to the erosion.

Four of the missing men are shopkeepers Abul Kashem, 60, Abul Kalam, 55, Janu Miah, 50, and Byron Miah, 45, said Khondoker Khalid, in-charge of Mawa terminal.

Divers of the Fire Service and Civil Defence are continuing their operation to find missing people, said Md Saiful Islam, Louhajong Upazila nirbahi officer (UNO).

Ashiquzzaman, assistant general manager at BIWTA Mawa office, said they were now facing serious problem in continuing the ferry service.

The Padma also devoured Imambari Mosque at Mawa terminal Sunday night, he informed. A number of dwelling houses near the terminal are also threatened, he added.

Ashiquzzaman said, the disruption in ferry service is causing immense suffering to the commuters of 21 southern districts.

Hundreds of vehicles got stranded on both ends of the river and the authorities had advised the vehicles to use Daulatdia-Paturia route instead of Mawa-Kawrakandi.

The authorities on October 9 suspended ferry terminal No. 2 after a portion of it went into the river. Ferry services through the terminal was also suspended the next day. However, the operation resumed after eight hours following repair work.

But the attempt to save the terminal proved futile as it totally disappeared into Padma on Sunday night.

Earlier the river washed away the nearby parking yard on October 4.

While visiting the terminal area yesterday, this correspondent saw the shop owners there hurriedly shifting their belongings to safer places in fear of erosion.

Human chain protesting social discrimination in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

People from all walks of life joined a human chain in Joypurhat town yesterday, demanding end to social discrimination, especially against the ethnic minority people.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP) organised the programme in front of Joypurhat Central Mosque, against the backdrop of an unwanted incident at the canteen of Joypurhat Bar Association on October 4.

After several indigenous people took water from glasses at the canteen of Joypurhat Bar on that day, a few lawyers pressurised Md Nurul Islam, manager of the canteen, to hand over 26 glasses to advocate Babul Rabidas, president of Joypurhat unit of JAP, witness said.

The canteen manager also asked Rabidas to replace the glasses, terming those as 'unusable' due to handling by some indigenous men, they said.

The incident gave rise to widespread criticism among the ethnic minority communities as well as conscious people from all walks of life.



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad forms a human chain in Joypurhat town yesterday demanding end to all forms of social discrimination, especially against the dalit community and ethnic minorities.

People from ethnic minority communities as well as Bangalees joined yesterday's human chain in front of Joypurhat Central Mosque. It continued from 10:30am to 2:00pm.

"Bangladesh achieved independence through struggle of people from all communities. Even after the independence, we have been fighting jointly for equal rights of all communities. The October 4 incident

shows how attitude of hatred and discrimination still exists among a section of people," Pankaj Bhattacharya, convener of Gono Oikyo, said in his speech as chief guest at the programme.

Such attitude leads to repression on the indigenous people in the country, he added.

The speakers at the programme urged all to end social discrimination against the ethnic minority

communities across the country.

They alleged that the government is yet to wake up on the recent barbaric incidents at different places including Ramu.

Rabindranath Soren, president of Jaitiya Adivasi Parishad, Daipayon Khisa of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity and leaders of different organisations spoke at the programme.

Tiger kills crab catcher

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Satkhira

A crab catcher was killed and another injured in separate incidents of tiger attack in Sundarbans west range yesterday.

Majed Gain, 45, of Parshemari village under Shyamnagar upazila was killed when he went to the Sundarbans along with fellow catchers in the morning.

While Majed was catching crabs in Chunkhali area under Dhaler Canal, a tiger swooped on him and dragged him into deep forest at about 9:00am.

Later locals recovered the mutilated body of Majed in the afternoon.

In another incident, a crab catcher was critically injured by a tiger in Bara Mathabhanga area of Chunkuri river in the Sundarbans.

The victim was identified as Abdur Rouf, 25, son of Shahar Ali Gazi at Tengrakhali village in Shyamnagar upazila.

Mahidul Gazi, one of the fellow catchers, said a tiger attacked Rouf while they were catching crab. The other catchers rescued him after driving away the tiger with oars.



WE DEEPLY MOURN

Syed Baquer Hossain, Managing Director of Asimpex Trading Corporation Limited and founder Director of SB Tel Enterprises Limited (SYMPHONY) who has passed away on 14th October, 2012 at 8.45 am (Innalillahi wa inna elaihi rajeun). He was 51 years old at the time of death.

He has left his wife, one son and two daughters along with family members and many friends, relatives, well-wishers and business partners. We have lost a growing business leader from us and we will always keep his memories held deeply within our hearts.

We pray for the salvation of his departed soul and extend our deepest condolence to his family. Ameen ..



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