

Erosion takes serious turn with recession of flood water

Fresh areas inundated in Gaibandha

STAR COUNTRY DESK

With flood water receding, erosion on the banks of the Brahmaputra in Kurigram and the Teesta and Dharla in Lalmonirhat has taken a serious turn.

Meanwhile, flood engulfed fresh areas in four upazilas of Gaibandha as the Teesta and the Jamuna further swelled yesterday.

Our Kurigram correspondent reported that erosion by the Brahmaputra made at least 115 families homeless in Ghogadaha and Jatrapur unions under Sadar upazila in the last two days.

The Brahmaputra was yesterday flowing 1.72centimetres below the danger level at Noonkhawa point in the Jatrapur union, WDB sources said.

The affected villages are Brommatar, Maisherkuti and Rasulpur under Ghogadaha union and Farajipara, Garuhara, Bhabindapur and Jatrapur village under Jatrapur union.

Abdul Malek, chairman of Ghogadaha Union Parishad, said around 2-km embankment from Maisherkuti to Khamer Rasulpur is under the threat of erosion.

Local WDB staff are putting bamboo spars and dumping sandbags to protect the dyke from onslaught of the river.

In Lalmonirhat, the Teesta and the Dharla devoured around 200 homesteads in Hatibandha, Aditmari and Lalmonirhat Sadar upazilas in the last two days, according to our correspondent.

The erosion-hit people have taken shelter on the embankment of the Water Development Board (WDB) and roads and highways in the area.

The affected villages are Mogholhat, Badaitari, Etapota, Khuniyagachh, Kalmati under Lalmonirhat

Sadar upazila; Kutirpar, Gobordhan in Aditmari upazila; and South Sindurna, Dawabari and Madhya Goddimarui villages in Hatibandha upazila, WDB sources said.

Akkel Ali, 56, of Badaitari village under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila said his homestead had gone into the Dharla yesterday morning. His family has taken shelter on a road in the area.

Mogholhat UP Chairman Habibur Rahman Habib said the Dharla devoured many homesteads, cropland, and orchards in the union under Sadar upazila on Friday morning.

Contacted, Executive Engineer Enayret Ullah of Lalmonirhat WDB said they have no fund to take immediate measures to check river erosion.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds: Water level in the Teesta and Jamuna marked a sharp rise yesterday, inundating fresh areas in 19 unions of four upazilas.

Over 30,000 people have been marooned in the flood affected areas. Many roads in the flood-hit areas have already gone under knee to waist-deep water.

District administration distributed 50 tonnes of rice and Tk 1.5 lakh among flood affected people.

With the rise in water level in the two major rivers, erosion have so far rendered over 300 families shelterless in some other areas in the four upazilas. The victims have taken shelter on high land and WDB embankment.



With flood water receding, erosion on the bank of Dharla River at Mogholhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila has taken a serious turn. Below, turbulent Jamuna River has continued devouring areas at Purbo Hajirhat village in Uria union of Fulchhari upazila under Gaibandha district. The photos were taken yesterday.

KANMONA-HARABOTI CANAL IN JOYPURHAT

Green belt project uncertain as criminals uproot 1500 trees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The project of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) to make a green belt on both sides of Kanmona-Haraboti canal in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat district has become uncertain amid sabotage by a local vested interest group.

As part of a plan to plant 40,000 saplings of wood, fruit and medicinal trees on the both sides of Kanmona-Haraboti canal, the BMDA planted around 1500 saplings there in early July.

But men of the vested interest group allegedly belonging to Amrita Sarker Jewel and Shibli Sarker uprooted the plants, forcing the authorities to suspend the tree plantation.

The 12.5km Kanmona-Haraboti canal starts from Chhatragram and ends at Roir village in Kalai upazila.

Earlier local land grabbers filled up large portions of the canal bed.

Recently the Barind authority excavated the 12.5km canal spending Tk 1 crore as per decision of Kalai upazila administration to restore its water flow.



Huge saplings lie idle on the office premises of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority in Kalai upazila under Joypurhat district as the organisation, presently implementing a project to plant 40 thousand trees on the banks of Kanmona-Haraboti canal in the upazila, suspended the task after criminals uprooted 1500 saplings that had been planted early this month.

The authorities also decided to plant trees on both sides of the canal.

But some local influential people including Amrita Sarker Jewel and Shibli Sarker started opposing the tree plantation since it started in early July and finally uprooted the trees,

locals said.

When contacted, Amrita and Shibli claimed that the land belongs to them and they want to produce vegetables there.

"Nobody has the right to do anything here," said Amrita.

Md Abu Sufiyan, deputy

assistant engineer of Kalai upazila chapter of Barind Multilateral Development Authority, admitted the incident of uprooting the 1,500 saplings by unscrupulous people.

"We took the initiative to plant trees to protect the canal from any further damage and maintain ecological

balance in the area. Besides, the locals would be benefited when the trees mature," he said.

Barind authorities are now worried about the large number of saplings they had purchased earlier to plant on the canal banks.

BNP factions in Laxmipur clash, eight bullet injured

UNB, Laxmipur

At least 10 BNP activists were injured, eight with bullets, as two factions of the main opposition clashed at Mirganj in Raipur upazila early Saturday over the sexual harassment of a girl.

Abul Kashem Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Raipur Police Station, said some Jubo Dal activists engaged in an altercation with another faction of the BNP's youth wing over sexually harassing a girl at Mirganj Bazar around 12am.

As a sequel to the incident, the followers of BNP leaders Nazrul Islam Sarker and Zahirul Alam Bachchu, equipped with arms, engaged in a clash.

A chase and counter chase took place amid gunshots during the melee that left 10 from the both sides injured.

Of the injured, Morshed Alam and Faisal were rushed to Noakhali

General Hospital where their condition was said to be critical.

The other injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital and a local hospital.

RANGAMATI ABDUCTION

Human chain for steps to free five Bangalees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Leaders and activists of Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad (PBCP) formed a human chain in Shapla Chattar area of the district town yesterday, demanding immediate steps to rescue the five abducted Bangalees, including four staff of Bi Technology.

A gang of criminals abducted the five from Baribindughat in Baghaichhari upazila of Rangamati district on July 8. The victims are assistant engineer Akhter Hossain, technicians Hemayet Uddin and Imrul, and worker Suja Miah of Bi Technology, a construction firm, and Mohammad Majid of the area.

The Bi Technology staff had come to Baribindughat from Dhaka to inspect construction of a TeleTalk tower. Five unidentified criminals

abducted them while they were returning after inspecting the telecom tower there.

Addressing a rally at the programme, the PBCP leaders said abduction, extortion and killing are increasing gradually in CHT but local administrations are not much active to combat the crimes.

They urged the government to take immediate steps to rescue the abducted Bangalees and put an end to criminal activities in the hill districts.

They have also threatened to a launch tougher agitation in the three hill districts if their demands are not met.

PBCP central leader Abdul Majid, its Khagrachhari unit Joint Secretary Sohel Rana, local leaders Lokman Hossain and Abdul Khalak, father of abducted Mohammad Majid also addressed the rally.

C'NAWABGANJ POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Students agitate to press 11-point demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Students of Chapainawabganj Polytechnic Institute staged a demonstration in front of the institute yesterday morning to press home their 11-point demand.

The demands include shifting of mid-term examinations, immediate appointment of teachers against vacant posts, issuance of identity cards and establish-

ing a canteen at the institute.

The agitating students also submitted a memorandum to Principal Salam Chowdhury in this regard. They said the academic activities are being hampered due to acute shortage of teachers at some departments.

The institute yesterday postponed mid-term examinations of second, fourth and sixth semesters in the face of student agitation.

The students later withdrew the demonstration programme after the principal assured them of taking immediate steps to meet their demands.

The principal said 35 teachers are required for four department but they are now running with only 22 teachers.

Of them, department of electric and electronics is running with part-time teachers as no regular teachers are there.



This python was rescued at Khochabari village in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram district yesterday. Villager Mahir Ali saw the 10-foot-long snake at a bamboo cluster near Khochabari Bridge at around 9:00am and caught it with the help of local snake charmers. It is guessed that the python came with the recent floodwater from hills in upstream. Phulbari UNO Sheikh Mohammad Belayet Hossain later handed over the python to the upazila forest officials.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Ex-Jubo Dal leader shot

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Former organising secretary of Rajbari district unit of Jubo Dal was shot by unidentified criminals in Binodpur area of the town on Friday night. Ahsan Habib, assistant police Superintendent (ASP) of Rajbari, quoted locals as saying that a gang of criminals opened fire on Masudur Rahman Lal while he was talking with some of his party colleagues in the area at around 10:30pm. He is now undergoing treatment at Rajbari Sadar Hospital. BNP district unit brought out a procession in the town yesterday morning protesting the armed attack on Masudur Rahman.



Coastguard seizes 20 kg of venison and two deer skins left by fleeing criminals on the bank of Bishkhali River at Chardoani in Patharghata upazila under Barguna district yesterday.

Jamaat-Shibir men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Four Jamaat-Shibir men were arrested on Friday night in connection with Wednesday's attack on Kaliganj Bangabandhu Haat in Jaldhaka upazila of the district. The arrestees are Joynal, 45, Sarafat member, 50, Mosharrif Hossain, 34, and Ferdous Alam. Police said the four are among the 38 accused in the case filed by Moshir Rahman, vice president of Golna union unit of Awami League in the upazila. The clash ensued after AL men caught Jamaat activist Ferdous, accused in a case filed under the Speedy Trial Act for attacking an AL procession in the area on April 10. Hearing the news, around 300-400 Jamaat-Shibir men attacked the Kaliganj Bangabandhu Haat at around 7:30pm and hacked and beat up 25-30 AL and Chhatra League activists. They also set fire to 15 shops and confined some AL activists to a warehouse.

Hilsa seized on border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapolejessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized over 450 kilograms of hilsa while being smuggled to India through Baroachra border point in Benapole yesterday. Sources at 26 BGB Benapole said, acting on a tip-off, a team of the border force raided the border in the early hours and seized the hilsa worth Tk 3 lakh. However, the smugglers managed to flee the scene. Benapole customs later sold the seized hilsa at auction.

Boy drowns in river

UNB, Manikganj

A schoolboy drowned in the River Dhaleshwari at Char Ulaiel village in Singair upazila on Friday afternoon. Deceased Adibar Baidya was a class-III student of a local primary school and son of Ashutosh Baidya of the village. Locals said Adibar went to take a dip in the river along with his friends and drowned.

PHOTO: STAR

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