



PHOTO: STAR

Collapse of the embankment at Nizampur in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district on Friday flooded three villages inhabited by around 10 thousand people and affected nearby agricultural lands with saline water.

# 3 villages flooded as dyke collapses in Kalapara

Road communications in Patuakhali disrupted as ferry gangways go under tidal water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Around 10,000 people of Nizampur, Eusufpur and Puratan Mohipur villages in Kalapara upazila under the district are passing days amid sufferings as two to three feet water flooded the area following collapse of a flood control embankment under the impact of tidal surge on Friday.

"Over 200 feet area of the embankment col-

lapsed at Nizampur, letting tidal water enter to the three villages. Local farmers are facing uncertainty about aman paddy cultivation as vast agricultural lands have gone under saline water," said Abdul Maleq Akhond, chairman for Mohipur union parishad.

"The authorities concerned should take immediate step to repair the damaged embankment to prevent further damage. Water

Development Board (WDB) repaired the embankment last year but it has collapsed due to low quality work," he said.

Despite several attempts, this correspondent failed to communicate with Safi Uddin, executive engineer for Kalapara WDB, as he did not receive his cell phone.

Meanwhile, vehicular movement on different roads of Patuakhali and Barguna districts was

badly disturbed during the last two days as gangways of Lubukhali ferry ghat on Patuakhali-Barisal road, Galachipa ferry ghat on Patuakhali-Galachipa road, Hazipur ferry ghat on Patuakhali-Kuakata road, Baichutki ferry ghat on Barguna-Kakchira road went under water during high tides.

Thousands of passengers suffered a lot due to the situation.

## Sylhet truckers on strike protesting extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Truck owners and Truck Sramik Union enforced a 72-hour truck strike in the district from yesterday morning protesting extortion on different roads and demanding renovation of Sylhet-Companiganj Road.

"We had earlier submitted a memorandum to the district administration immediate steps to end illegal toll collection on roads, but to no effect," said Abu Sarker, president of Truck Sramik Union.

The authorities concerned took no action in this regard although the truckers went on an indefinite strike on Sylhet-Companiganj Road a week ago, he added.

Truck owners and Truck Union Leaders alleged that illegal toll was being collected in different areas under Gowainghat, Gopalganj and Osmaninagar areas in the name of police.

Contacted, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) Mohammad Rahamatu Ullah said police arrested four truck workers on extortion charge on Sylhet-Companiganj Road on Thursday.

More than 2000 trucks ply the road every day for carrying stones from the country's biggest stone quarry at Bholaganj. Besides, at least 500 stone crusher units are located on the road, linking Sylhet, Companiganj, Chhatak and Gowainghat upazilas.

Contacted, Executive Engineer of the Roads & Highways Department in Sylhet Abu Ehtesham Rashed said the Tk 600 crore project is awaiting approval of the Ministry of communications. "We are doing some repair works on the busy road," he added.

"It is not possible to keep the road usable as trucks plying the road carry stone beyond their capacity," the engineer added.

## AL's Afroz

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vote at Sher-e-Bangla Night School centre at 2:00pm when he was told that his ballot had already been cast.

Asked about the matter, the presiding officer, Samir Ranjan Biswas, said no one had challenged his voting.

Returning Officer of the polls centre Shahidul Alam said he had not received any allegation of vote rigging.

The parliamentary seat of the constituency fell vacant after the death of AL lawmaker and Barisal city AL president Shawkat Hossain Hiron on April 9.

His widow Jebunnesa Afroj and BNP candidate Saiful contested the seat.

However, no polling agents of Saiful were seen at the centres. He himself has been remaining out of sight in Barisal for the last five days.

## Another gas

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"We flared the gas we found at that depth -- but this gas is available at a zone that is only 1.5 metres thick. The gas is not coming out at a pressure that we could use commercially," said a top official of the country's lone exploration company.

"But we flared it, just to confirm that there is gas. We don't call it a gas field discovery yet," he added.

Bapex experts are actually looking for another potential gas zone below this one. This zone is 7 metres thick, as per a seismic survey data obtained by Bapex in 2010.

The official noted that experts expect to hit a commercial gas zone there by drilling further within the next week.

Bapex started drilling in Rupganj from March under a Tk 65 crore programme.

The company has six small gas fields which are contributing around 116 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) gas and 68 barrels of condensate a day.

The country is presently producing 2,300 mmcf gas, which is not enough to meet the ever increasing demands.

# Father of slain rly staff alleges police inaction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Father of slain railway employee Sheikh Enam Hossain has claimed that adultery of Enam's wife acted behind his killing over five months ago while police is not taking proper steps regarding the murder case.

"My son Sheikh Enam Hossain, who was an employee of Chirirbandar railway station in Dinajpur, was tortured and suffocated to death on the night of January 7 at his home as a sequel to adultery of his wife," Sheikh Enam's father Sheikh Chand Mia, hailing from Gopalganj district, said, reading out a written statement at the press conference at Dinajpur Press Club.

"After police repeatedly declined to accept the FIR, I filed a murder case with the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in Dinajpur on May

21 accusing five people -- Shima Khanam, 25, wife of Sheikh Enam Hossain, Shim's father Shahid Shamadar, 50, his wife Shirin Begum, 45, their son Shipon Samadar, 27, residents of Urli village in Gopalganj district, and Saiful Islam alias Sumon, 28, a point man of Rangpur Railway Station.

"Nazmul Haque, a sub-inspector of Dinajpur, was made the investigation officer (IO) of the case. The court ordered police to exhume my son's body in presence of a magistrate, arrange conducting a post mortem and submit an overall report by August 14.

"But police is yet to arrest any of the accused and the IO is yet to take any initiative as per the court direction. He has also continued demanding bribe.

"Enam's wife has already withdrawn his insurance

deposit through submitting a death certificate which contains several pieces of wrong information.

"It seemed to me that she was involved in the killing. If the police follow the court direction properly, they would find out clue to the murder," Sheikh Chand Mia said in his written statement.

Sheikh Enam Hossain 33, an employee of Bangladesh Railway a Chirirbandar upazila railway station and lived at nearby railway quarters with his wife and daughter.

On January 7 night, locals rushed a critically ailing Enam to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital where the doctors found him dead. Later, he was buried at the family graveyard in Gopalganj district.

Contacted, IO Nazmul Haque said he is following the court order.



PHOTO: STAR

People of Kumarbhog and Medinimondol villages in Louhajang upazila under Munshiganj district form a human chain on Dhaka-Mawa road yesterday to press their demand to save Pashchim Kumarbhog Jame Masjid and nearby graveyard from possible demolition when the proposed Padma Bridge project is implemented. Only a slight change in the project design would save the two sacred places, locals said.

## EKRAM KILLING CASE

# Three Feni Jubo League, BCL men remanded

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A Feni court yesterday placed three BCL and Jubo League activists on remand in Fulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque killing case.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Khairul Amin passed the order when BCL activist Sayedul Karim Paban, and Jubo League activists Md Kawser and Abu Baker were produced in the court.

The court issued two day' fresh remand for Jubo League activist Kawser and BCL activist Paban while five days remand for Abu Baker who was arrested on

Friday in connection with the murder.

Kawser and Paban were arrested on June 8. They were taken on a five day remand the following day. On completion of the remand, the two were produced in the court that again placed them on a two-day remand.

Law enforcers have so far arrested as many as 26 people. Of them, 13 confessed to their involvement in the killing, investigation officer Abul Kalam Azad said.

Fulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul was shot and burnt to death in his car in the

academy area of the district town on May 20.

Ekram, also president of upazila Awami League, came under the attack by a gang of 40-50 on his way to Fulgazi upazila headquarters from his Feni residence.

Following the incident, Rezaul Haque Jasim, brother of the slain AL leader, filed a murder case against 30 to 35 people, including local BNP leader Minar Chowdhury, with Feni Model Police Station.

Meanwhile, a rally was held at Munshirhat under Fulgazi upazila yesterday, demanding release of Minar Chowdhury.

# Dissolve newly formed district, city units

## Demands Rangpur BNP faction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A faction of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Rangpur unit yesterday formed a human chain demanding dissolution of the newly formed district and city units.

On June 9, BNP central committee announced the formation of the district and city units.

Leaders and activists of

the faction joined the human chain in front of its district office at Grand Hotel intersection in the city for an hour from 12:00noon.

Addressing a rally at the venue, leaders of the rival faction alleged that Asadul Habib Dulu, organising secretary of the divisional unit and former deputy minister for food helped the opportunists to get leadership in the new committees.

The speakers said the committees were formed, excluding the dedicated leaders who were on the streets during the movement boycotting the January 5 parliamentary elections.

They also declared Dulu persona non grata in the division and announced to observe a token hunger strike at the same venue at 11:00am on April 18, to press their demand.

## One killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A man was killed over land dispute at Pashchim Moniram village in Gangachara upazila on Saturday.

The deceased is Bachchu Mian, 35, son of Afer Uddin of Tepa-Daliram village in Kishoreganj upazila of Nilphamari district.

Police and locals said there had been a long-standing conflict between Saheb Ali of Pashchim Moniram village and Afer Ali of Kutub village over the land.

As a sequel to the conflict, the men of Afer Ali attacked Bachchu Mian, nephew of Saheb Ali, with sharp weapons, leaving him seriously injured on Saturday morning.

Bachchu later succumbed to his injuries at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital at 2:30pm.

## ATTACK ON FELLOW STUDENT

# Strike at Mymensingh medical continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Students of Mymensingh Medical College continued their strike for the second day yesterday demanding adequate security and arrest of the attackers on a fellow student.

They went on the strike on Saturday afternoon demanding arrest of some locals alleged drug addicts who attacked Reza Hasan Taki, 21, a fourth year student of the college in the town on Saturday morning.

Critically injured Taki, who was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital by a helicopter, is now undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospi-

tal.

His fellow students formed a human chain on the campus following a silent procession around 11:00am protesting the attack.

Teachers of the college suspended the scheduled classes and joined the procession wearing black badges to express solidarity with the students.

The also submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner of Mymensingh seeking immediate steps to arrest the culprits, Dr Motiur Rahman Bhuiyan, secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association Mymensingh unit said.

Earlier on Saturday morning, some alleged drug addicts caused serious

stab injuries to Taki, a fourth year student of Mymensingh Medical College.

Victim Taki, 21, son of Abdul Motalab, was getting into a rickshaw to go to MMC library from his Bhatikashar residence when 5/6 miscreants allegedly led by his neighbour Limon stabbed him indiscriminately.

Limon and his companions got angry with Taki as he asked them not to take drug openly in the area.

Meanwhile, police arrested Al Amin and Shafiqul Islam, two cousins of the main accused Limon on Saturday night for interrogation, said Abu Md Fazlul Karim, officer in charge of Kotwali Police Station.



PHOTO: STAR

Second year students of Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh take position in front of the residence of Vice Chancellor Prof Md Rafiqul Hoque yesterday, keeping him confined there as of filing of this report at 8:00pm, demanding cancellation of the decision to increase their semester fees.