

PATUAKHALI TOWN FLOODED AGAIN

Breaches in dyke add to woes of people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali town got flooded yesterday as tidal water entered the town, overflowing the protection dyke at Katpatty and Puran Bazar points and through the breached portions of the dyke and sluice gates in other areas at noon.

The flood-hit areas include Katpattii, Puran Bazar, Nawabpara, Chawkbazar, Muslim Para, Shimulbagh, Natanbazar, Charpara, Girls' School Road, Women's College Road, SDO Road, Govt Jubilee School Road, Thanapara, New Market, Munsefpara, Latif School Road, and Sabujbagh.

Flood water submerged the roads, shops and dwelling houses in the areas, causing immense sufferings

to the townspeople. Water entered the town from Lohalia River to the east and Lawkathi River to the north during high tide.

Many areas in the district town gets flooded during high tide under the impact of full moon and new moon as sluice gates and regulators don't work properly and cracks have appeared at different points of the flood control dyke.

Water Development Board (WDB) had completed the construction of Tk 24.52 crore dyke in June last year to protect the town from tidal surges. It has six sluice gates, nine culverts and 17 outlets.

The 12 feet high dyke was supposed to have been 12 feet wide, but the contractors did not follow the rules at Puran Bazar and Katpatty

points and built the dyke with only 2 to 6 feet wide, and, as a result, the dyke developed cracks.

Locals have blamed the WDB officials for massive irregularities in construction of the protection dyke in Katpatty and Puran Bazar areas.

During high tide at around 12:30pm yesterday, this correspondent saw water from Lohalia River entering the town, overflowing the dyke and through its breached portions in Katpatty and Puran Bazar points. Some concrete blocks have been displaced there due to pressure of tidal water.

Jahangir Sikder, a resident of Puran Bazar area, said townspeople are not getting benefit of the protection dyke as it has developed

cracks. Water enters the town through sluice gates and regulators as these are not working properly.

"We lodged complaints to the authorities concerned several times, but to effect," he said. Patuakhali municipality Mayor Md Shafiqul Islam also alleged irregularities in construction of the dyke.

A source in WDB said cracks have appeared at many points of the town protection dyke and the officials, who were in Patuakhali during its construction, have already transferred to other places.

Md Shafi Uddin, acting executive engineer of WDB, said tidal water enters the town as sluice gates of the dyke are not working properly. Necessary steps are being taken to solve the problems, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Patuakhali town was flooded again as tidal water entered it through breaches at different points of the dyke yesterday. Photo shows water overflowing the embankment in Katpatty area.

Eid hardly brings any joy to half-fed dyke dwellers

KM REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

"When food was hardly available in my make-shift shed even on the Eid day, clothes for the festival was simply a dream for my children", said Salma Begum, a homeless erosion victim living on Nilkuthi flood control dyke in Phulchhari upazila.

Deserted by her husband, Salma, 28, has been living on the dyke with her two daughters and mother for the last two years after their homestead was devoured by the Jamuna. Her husband left the family for an unknown destination and remained traceless till date.

Salma, however, pulled her family through working at the cropfields and during off season, as maid at houses of landlords.

Many of the dyke dwellers like Salma did not know how and when the Eid festival came and passed off. They never saw any festive mood since taking shelter on the dyke. About 170 such families took shelter on Nilkuthi dyke and most of them have been living there for the last three years.

While visiting the dyke on Friday, this correspondent witnessed no air of Eid festival in the area. Children were seen playing as usual on the dyke without wearing any new clothes while the girls and women were gossiping in groups because there was no special cooking on the day.

"We usually take a single meal everyday. Cooking starts in the evening after the male members return from work", said Phuljan Bibi of

the dyke.

In time of acute crisis, it becomes difficult to borrow foodgrains from a neighbour, as all of us are poor and destitute and living here hand to mouth", she added.

Sometimes in the rainy season they get relief from the local chairman and in the winter the UNO distributes blankets, otherwise nobody comes to the aid of these poor inhabitants, said Nizamuddin, an elderly man.

Maleka Begum, wife of day labourer Azizer Mia, said "Sometimes it becomes difficult for me to arrange even a morsel of food, because my husband is unable to work as he has

been suffering from acute illness for the last two months".

Admitting the woes of dyke dwellers, Habibur Rahman, upazila chairman of Phulchhari, said they face serious difficulty to bring the dyke people to the list of the mainstream victims because they have no permanent address and often migrate to else other places. Besides, the union parishad has no adequate sources to extend help, he added.

The authorities should take initiative to rehabilitate these floating people and take permanent measures to control river erosion, he observed.

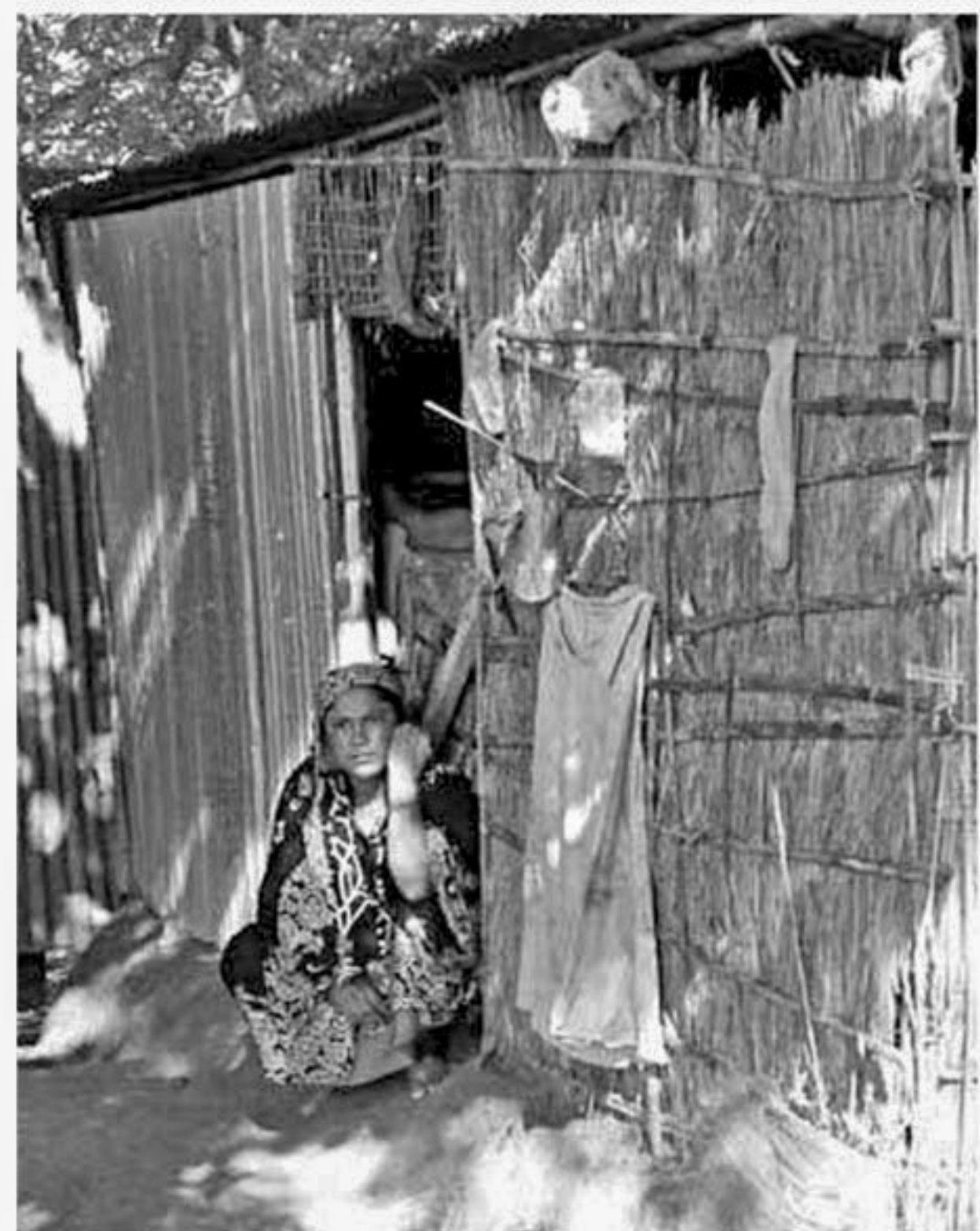


PHOTO: STAR

Hapless Salma Begum, living on the Nilkuthi flood control dyke in Phulchhari upazila of Gaibandha with two daughters and mother, gives a bleak look while sitting at the door of her makeshift hut.

AL man beaten up for alleged rape attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A local Awami League leader was beaten up for his alleged bid to rape a widow at Bourani village in Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

Mansur Ali, 39, general secretary of ward No 7 of Begunbari union unit AL, entered the woman's house at 8:30pm with the evil motive, alleged locals.

Hearing the hue and cry, a mob rushed to the spot and gave Mansur a good beating, leaving him injured.

Later, the AL leader was freed through an arbitration.

Contacted, Begunbari union unit AL president Boni Amin, chairman of the UP, said Mansur often visited the house as he has a good relationship with the widow's elder brother.

Boni Amin blamed BNP-Jamaat men for damage the image of Mansur Ali.

Ultimatum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Townspeople of the district yesterday gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the local administration to stop obscene dance and gambling that had been going on in the name of jatra (open air drama) in Sherpur area for the last two days.

The ultimatum came from a human chain attended by several hundred people on Moulvibazar Press Club premises.

Earlier on the day, under the banner of Jatra Pratirodh Committee, they brought out a procession in the town in this regard.

Addressing the programmes, Ataur Rahman, chairman of the committee, said they would block Kulaura-Moulvibazar road and besiege the town, if the authorities failed to stop obscene dance and gambling in the area within the deadline.

Later, locals submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner to realise the demand.



PHOTO: STAR

Patients lie on the floor of the diarrhoea ward at Pabna Medical College Hospital because of sudden influx of patients there after Eid.

DIARRHOEA SPREADS IN PABNA

Hospital struggles to cope with patients

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pabna Medical College Hospital (PMCH) is struggling to cope with diarrhoea patients as 192 people with the disease were admitted to the hospital during the last six days since the Eid-ul-Fitr.

Of them, 23 patients were admitted on the Eid day (July 29), 39 were admitted the next day, 45 on Thursday, 37 on Friday, 28 on Saturday, and 20 others yesterday.

Visiting PMCH yesterday morning, this correspondent found over 50 patients stay-

ing in the 16-bed diarrhoea ward of the hospital.

"Usually five to ten diarrhoea patients are admitted to the PMCH daily but the number has risen several times during the last few days. Most of the patients are middle-aged and elderly people. Many of them are staying on the floor due to the lack of beds in the ward," said Mina Begum, staff nurse of the diarrhoea ward of PMCH.

"The change of food style after fasting during the Ramadan may affect some people with diarrhoea. The

situation is likely to improve within a few days. The doctors here are giving proper treatment to the patients," said Dr Monwarul Aziz, assistant director of the hospital.

Several patients alleged that they have to buy IV (intravenous) saline from market as it is not supplied from the hospital.

"We could not supply more than one or two packets of IV saline for each patient. If anybody needs more saline they have to buy it from market," Dr Aziz said.

2 sued for carrying

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filed a case against the duo for their negligence in crossing the railway track.

Two gatemens of the Malibagh rail gate -- Akbar Hossain and Momin Hossain -- were temporary suspended for their negligence in duty, said Sub-inspector Arefin Imam of the police station, investigation officer of the arms case.

"According to primary information, they delayed lowering the bar at the level crossing, allowing the car to

cross it," he said.

The car with Khan, Ansar and three other people on Friday afternoon slipped under the closing gate at the crossing and got hit by a train, witnesses said.

Discovering firearms in the wrecked car, police raided various hospitals and found Ansar in a critical condition in one private hospital while Khan went into hiding.

From the data provided by Narayanganj police regarding Nur Hossain's

licensed weapons, police found out that the pistol and bullets recovered from the car belonged to Hossain.

Nur Hossain, who made a dash for the Indian border after the murders, is now in a Kolkata jail in a case filed for illegal entry to the country.

Nur and his family members had 11 licensed weapons. The licences were cancelled following the murders in April.

Out of the 11 weapons, police had recovered nine. Two were missing.

Govt to launch further probe

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approved by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina regarding this reached the ministry yesterday, he added. The liberation war affairs ministry earlier made a request to this end too.

After assuming office in 2009, the Awami League-led government initiated a move to express state gratitude to foreign friends and organisations for their contributions to the cause of Bangladesh's struggle for freedom in 1971 and it started with honouring the then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The government honoured 337 more people and organisations in seven phases.

According to the policy, each shield was to contain 22.5 grams of gold and 339 grams of silver. But Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) tested a shield in 2012 and found that the shield only had 2,363 grams of gold and 466.237 grams of brass instead of silver.

After this anomaly was published in media recently, the liberation war affairs ministry formed a probe committee on April 7 to identify those involved in the scam.

The committee led by Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Zillar Rahman found that the government was robbed of around Tk 7.04 crore

through these sub-par shields. The probe body held former state minister for liberation war affairs AB Tajul Islam and 12 others of his ministry responsible for the fraudulence.

But, according to sources, the decision of forming the probe body led by Zillar Rahman, who was of additional secretary stature, drew criticisms as those who were allegedly involved in the scam include people of higher ranks.

The government top notches also had reacted to the decision and now have decided to conduct further probe into the matter, sources said.

SNIPPETS

Man stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A man was stabbed to death by his stepbrother over land dispute at Noorpur village in Nasirnagar upazila of the district on Saturday night. The victim is Masuk Mia, 38, son of Late Sayed Mia of the village. Police quoted locals as saying that there had been a longstanding feud between Masuk Mia and his stepbrother Monju Mia over sharing of property inherited from their father. On Saturday night, the duo locked in an altercation over the matter and at one stage, Monju stabbed Masuk in the chest and fled the scene. Critically injured Masuk died on the way to Nasirnagar Upazila Health Complex.

Minor boy drowns in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

An eight-year old boy drowned in a pond at Pathak Shikar village in Pirgachha upazila of the district yesterday. He was identified as Mochhabber Shahriar Mahim, 8, son of Shafiqul Islam of the village. Mokbul Hossain, officer in-charge of Pirgachha Police Station quoted Mahim's family members as saying that he slipped into a pond near his house while playing on its bank at around 3:00pm and drowned.

Theft at Singer outlet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Burglars broke into a showroom of Singer Electronics at Mathbaria upazila headquarters early yesterday and take away TK 50 thousand and other valuables including four laptops and three LED TVs. Babul Ahsan, manager of the outlet, said the gang entered the showroom, digging a hole at the rear part of the building.

20 shops gutted in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

At least 20 shops were gutted in a fire at Mouchak Market at Nabinagar upazila headquarters yesterday. Police and locals said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shoe shop at around 9:00am and soon engulfed the 19 other shops.

Young girl found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A young girl was found dead at Charfakira village in Companyganj upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased is Sumi Akther, 20, daughter of Abul Bashar of the village. Police quoted Sumi's relatives as saying that she used to live with her maternal grandfather Shamsul Haque since her childhood. On Saturday night, she took her meal around 10:30pm and went to her bed as usual. She was found dead in her bedroom in the morning. Being informed, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Noakhali Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Title Sponsorship Rights



Bangladesh Cricket Board

Ref: BCB - Commercial/ 2014/ 632

Date: 3rd August 2014

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) invites offers from the reputed business houses / companies / parties / agencies for the Title SPONSORSHIP for a period of 05 (Five) years (starting from July 01, 2014 to June 30, 2019) covering the following:

1. National Cricket League (Men) - NCL Longer Version
2. Bangladesh Cricket League (Men) - BCL Longer Version
3. National Cricket Championship (Men) - One Day Version
4. Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League
5. Women's Cricket Competitions (Three major tournaments):
 - i) Women's Club Cricket Tournament - Limited Over
 - ii) National Cricket League (Women) - Limited Over
 - iii) National Cricket Championship (Women) - Limited Over

Note: The interested companies / parties / agencies have to submit offers for all the RIGHTS or can chose to offer for individual RIGHTS.

A detailed document in relation to the submission of EOI for the aforesaid rights will be available at BCB Management Office (Marketing & Commercial Department) and the BCB official website: www.tigercricket.com.bd

EOI Guidelines:

Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, online betting shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI.

EOI Submission Procedure:

The EOI must be submitted at the BCB Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216, Bangladesh no later than **BST 3:00 pm on 18th of August 2014** and should be in a sealed envelope to be addressed to "The Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board".

The BCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board
Management Office

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