



PHOTO: STAR

Flash flood in Hili town in Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur district disrupted activities at the land port there for the last couple of days.

Flash flood disrupts work at Hili port

Schools, colleges suspend classes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Normal life of Hili townspeople in Hakimpur upazila has been disrupted in three days since Monday as rainwater from across the border triggered flash flood in land port and other areas.

Activities at Hili land port remained suspended as the lone road of India and Bangladesh went under waist-deep water.

Besides, water-logging due to heavy rain suspended academic activities at different educational institutions in the land port and its surrounded areas, said UNO Md Azharul Islam.

The entire area of Hili land port went under water due to incessant rain since Friday, said AK Azad, a resident of Churipotty area in the upazila.

Local people blamed the improper drainage system

in Hili for the water-logging.

Harun Ur Rashid, convener of Importer Groups of Hili Land Port, said at least 10 warehouses were flooded, causing Tk 1 crore damages to the traders.

As the link road between India and Bangladesh remained under the rainwater since Monday, the traders incurred huge loss, said Abul Kashem, president of the Land Port Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association.

Earlier, the port remained closed for five consecutive days due to hartal and weekend holiday, he added.

Our Bogra correspondent adds: Rainwater and onrush of water from the upstream and hills across the border have triggered flash flood due to sudden swelling of the Jamuna in Dhunat upazila.

The river devoured houses of at least 50 families

in Koiyagari village of Bhandarbari union of Dhunat upazila.

Local farmers said, after the receding of floodwater they had started to cultivate different types of vegetables, spice and gainja aman. But they are now frustrated as their crops again went under water.

Meanwhile the flood situation in Durgapur upazila of Netrokona has started improving while it remained static in Kalmsakanda upazila, reports our correspondent.

Four people drowned in floodwater in Durgapur upazila, locals said.

The dead were identified as Azam Khan, 50, of Korchowki village, Sirajul Islam, 55, of Suknakuri village, 3-month-old Faruk Mia of Garaikandi village and Sabikunnahar, 30, of Maskanda village.

ACTIVITIES IN 'ABANDONED' BUILDING

Shishu Academy puts lives of kids at risk

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

All the activities of Shishu Academy in the district are being done in a century-old risky building, putting lives of around 500 children under risk.

The authorities have been using the building, formerly known as Basic Democracy Hall, in the district town for conducting different programmes of children, following permission from the district administration in 2004.

Surprisingly, they ignored the matter that the Public Works Department in 2000 identified the building as risky and local municipality declared it 'permanently abandoned'.

Shishu Academy authorities started using it to run pre-schooling and other programmes like singing, recitation, drama, dance, drawing etc for around 500 children.

Visiting the building on Monday (22 September), this correspondent saw rainwater trickle down the roof, making the entire building damp.

Plaster of most part of the roof has already fallen, exposing rusty iron rods. Chunks of concrete and cement often fall off the roof, causing injuries to children,

said several guardians.

"We remain worried during class hours, as particles of sand, cement, and iron rods, even chunks of concrete fall off," said Razia Sultana, teacher of pre-schooling centre.

Several little kids including Abrar, Swarna and Orchi told this correspondent that they feel afraid while attending classes there.

"I wait amid anxiety outside the Shishu Academy building when my grandson attends classes there," said Laily Begum, a guardian.

Mostaque Ahmed, district children's affair officer, said, "It is true that we are conducting children's activities in the risky building. We sent a project proposal to the department concerned of the government much earlier, seeking fund allocation for construction of a new Shishu Academy complex. We hope to get it soon."

Ahsan Rahim Manzil, a member of Shishu Academy managing committee, said, "The district administration allotted a 55-decimal plot in the existing place and we are waiting for allocation of fund from the government for starting construction of the complex."



PHOTO: STAR

CALLOUSNESS UNFORGIVABLE: Activities of Nilphamari district Shishu Academy including its pre-school centre is running in an awfully dilapidated building, keeping the lives of kids, teachers and staff at risk.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

2 siblings held over murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two siblings in Mazampur gate area of the district town on Tuesday night on charge of killing a college boy. The arrestees are Tushar Ahmed, 18, and his elder brother Nishan Ahmed, sons of Farid Karim, an industrialist of Aruapara area in the town, said Ali Haider, commander of Rab-12. The deceased is Ashlamul Haq Zelin, 17, son of Mahbulul Haq of the area and a second-year student at Kushtia Government College. Tushar, a friend of Zelin, allegedly stabbed him when he was gossiping with four friends at Babur Ali Gate in the town around 3:30pm on Tuesday. Zelin was rushed to Kushtia Medical College campus where he died around 4:30pm, said police.

PDB eng'r's office besieged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Residents of Dhanbaria and Udoypur villages yesterday laid a siege to the office of Power Development Board (PDB) Chief Engineer in the town and ransacked the office demanding uninterrupted power supply. Anwar Hossain, sub-inspector of Sadar Police Station, said around 11:00am, agitated locals from the two villages surrounded the PDB office first and later began to vandalise the computers, chairs, tables and other furniture of the office. Locals alleged that frequent power outage and low voltage have virtually paralysed life in the two villages. Students and elderly people are the worst sufferers as power goes frequently, they said.

5 'Allar Dal' men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police arrested five activists of banned Islamist outfit 'Allar Dal' from a mess in Chandpur area under Phultala Police Station on Tuesday night. The arrestees are Parvez Hossain, 26, Abdur Rahim, 28, Md Selim, 23, and Ali Hossain of Jessore and Biswajit Devnath alias Mahin Ahmed, 27, of Sathkhira districts. The law enforcers also seized leaflets, four crude bombs, bomb making materials and a diary containing guidelines to implement the organisation's ideals from the arrestees.

Mobile court drive resisted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Over hundred of traders kept their shops shut for about two hours at Goshala Road in the town yesterday, protesting the drive against the smuggled Indian goods. Police said a special mobile court, led by magistrate Saifur Rahman along with four other executive magistrates, went to conduct a drive against smuggled Indian goods and low quality, sub-standard products at Goshala Road in Railway Bazar of Uttaron Super Market and Goshala Bazar. As the mobile court started conducting drive, the traders agitated, protesting the drive. Later, the mobile court returned without doing its job in face of the protest.

Jamaat leader detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police arrested a local Jamaat leader at his house in Purba Goalpara of Thakurgaon municipality yesterday on charge of possessing controversial books. The arrestee is Moniul Haque, publicity secretary of district unit Jamaat. On secret information, police raided the house and arrested Moniul along with 4,000 books titled 'Jamaat-e-Islami k nishchirhna korar awami sharanjantra', said officer in-charge of Thakurgaon police station AKM Mehedi Hasan. He was accused in arson attack and vandalism cases, said the OC.



PHOTO: STAR

People of Kajulia village in Gopalganj formed a human chain following a protest procession in the Sadar upazila town yesterday, demanding arrest of the killers of college student Prahlad Mondal. Prahlad was beaten to death allegedly by a neighbour blaming him for theft on Tuesday.

Rly demolishes illegal structures

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The authorities of railway west zone yesterday demolished around 500 illegal shops and establishments built on railway land in eight northern districts.

The illegal structures, owned by general people were demolished but those owned by political leaders and their musclemen remained untouched due to unknown reason, locals alleged.

Railway officials said, around 9,700 illegal structures have been marked for demolition in eight districts--Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh under the railway division.

Earlier, the owners of these illegal structures were served notices for one month.

Manik Mia, owner of an illegal structure at Mogholhat rail gate in the

town, said he had been running a small business in a tin-shed shop on railway land.

"Our structures were demolished yesterday but the eviction team did not touch a single brick of structures owned by political leaders and musclemen in the town," he said.

"A large number of illegal structures on railway land are owned by identified political leaders but the railway authorities are not demolishing these," said fruit trader Nuru Mia at the railway gate.

Lalmonirhat Railway Divisional Estate Officer (DEO) Ashish Kumar Chakrabarty said that the eviction drive would continue and the railway authorities will free all the railway lands.

However, he remained silent when asked why the eviction team did not demolish the illegal structures owned by political leaders and their musclemen.

Padma about to devour two Pabna schools

'Permanent' protection work demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The Padma is about to devour Arambaria High School and Arambaria Primary School at Arambaria village in Shara union of Ishwardi upazila under the district, much to the worry of students, teachers and guardians.

"A two-storied classroom building of Arambaria High School went into the bed of the Padma two years ago and the science room and the Shaheed Minar borrowed the same fate last year. Major portion of school ground was eroded during the last few weeks," said Ranajit Kumar Bishwas,

headmaster of the school.

"The river, now only three metres away from the lone two-storied building of my school, also threatens the primary school located on the same ground," he said.

"We are attending classes amid fear as the river has come close to the school building," Koushik Kumar Roy, a student of Class X.

Jerjis Hossain, chairman of Shara union parishad, said the mighty river devoured more than 300 dwelling houses and 500 acres of cultivable land in Arambaria village within two years. Ten dwelling houses and 50 acres of land

also went into the riverbed in last few weeks.

A permanent protection work is essential to save the two schools as well as the village, he said.

"A Tk 220 crore mega project has been taken for permanent protection work in 7.85 kilometre vulnerable area on the Padma in Shara union. Tendering for Tk 40.6 crore work under two groups for two-kilometre protection work is complete and the work will start in a month," said Md Mokhesur Rahman, executive engineer of Water Development Board, Pabna.

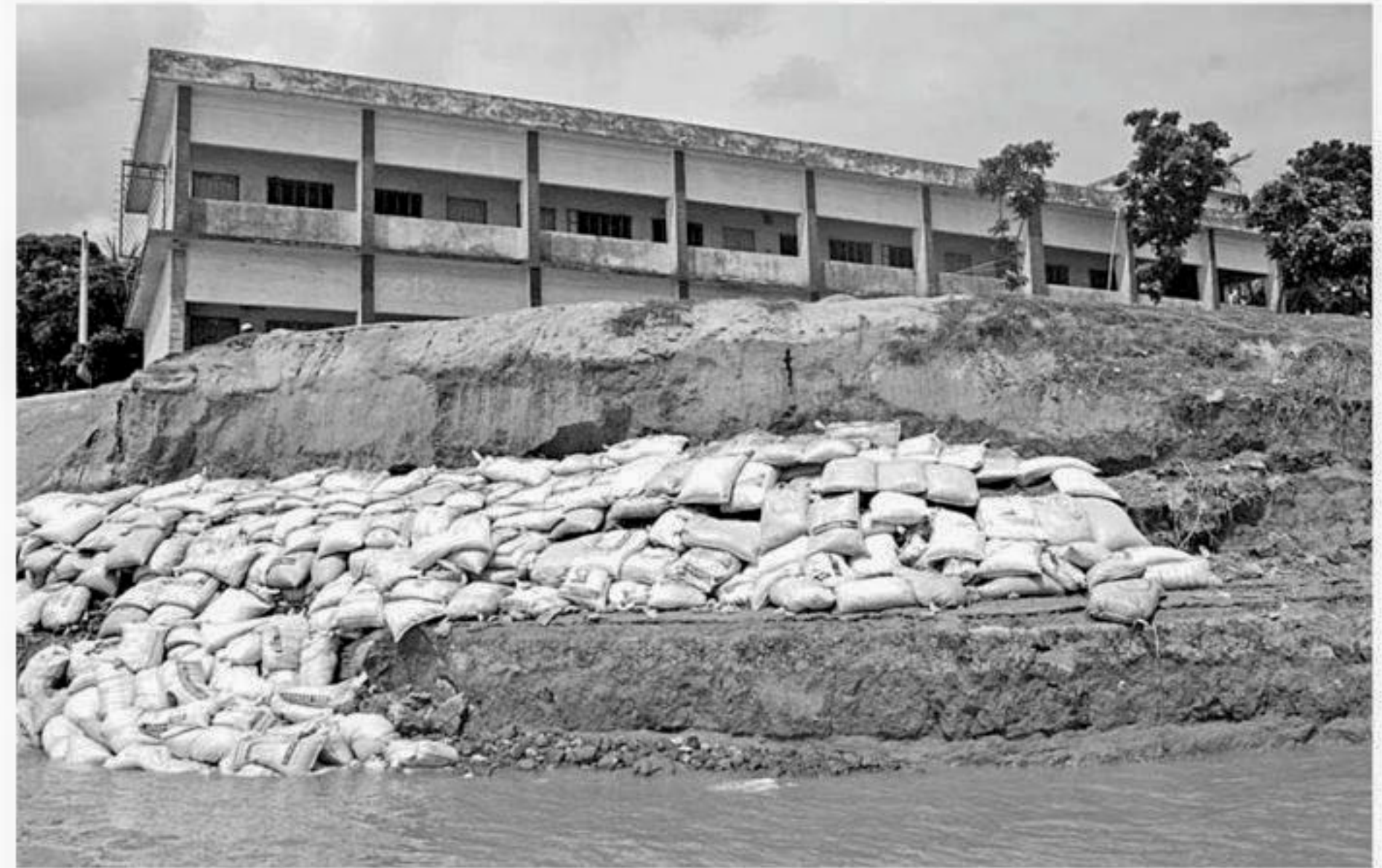


PHOTO: STAR

Arambaria High School and adjoining Arambaria Primary School in Ishwardi upazila under Pabna district face extinction due to erosion by the Padma River that has already devoured two other buildings and most of the ground of the high school.

JAMAAT-SHIBIR, BNP MEN

Charges pressed against 3,500

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Charges were pressed against 3,500 Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men in the cases for carrying out destructive activities in the district during national elections on January 5 and the day before.

Police submitted the charge sheets in 72 out of 128 cases to the courts on different dates from August 25 to September 15.

Of the cases, six were filed with Dinajpur Sadar Police station, seven with Birganj Police station, nine each with Khansama and Ghoraghat police stations, 11 with Chirirbandar police station, five with Parbatipur Police Station, three with Phulbari Police Station, six with Birampur Police station, eight with Nawabganj Police station, two with Hakimpur Police station and six with

Kaharol police Station.

As many as 128 cases were filed with 11 police stations of the district, accusing 25,000 Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men of carrying out destructive activities on the election day and the day before, police said.

Of the cases, charge sheets were submitted to the courts in 72 cases. Investigation into the rest 56 cases is still going on.

After filing of the cases, police arrested 1,500 accused. Of them 1,350 are now on bail while the remaining 150 are now in jail.

Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men torched, vandalised polling centres in 11 of 13 upazilas of the district. They also attacked the houses of Hindus in different areas of the district for casting votes in the parliamentary election.

Catherine Masud gives deposition

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Catherine Masud, wife of late filmmaker Tareque Masud, Chittagong University Professor Dhali Al-Mamun and his wife Dilara Begum yesterday gave their statements before a Manikganj court as witnesses in the case for tragic road accident that took place on Dhaka-Aricha highway in 2011.

They gave their depositions in the First Court of Joint Sessions Judge Md Rafiqul Islam. The court fixed October 10 for hearing of the case.

Tareque Masud and journalist Mishuk Munier were killed and Catherine Masud, Prof Dhali Al-Mamun and his wife Dilara Begum injured when a vehicle carrying them collided with a Chuadanda-bound bus at Joka on Dhaka-Aricha Highway under Ghior upazila of the district on August 13, 2011.

Bus driver Jamir Uddin, the lone accused in the case, was also present in the court yesterday.

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

giz

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations and is owned by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. Under GIZ, GIZ International Services, operates its Branch in Bangladesh in accordance with approval from the Board of Investment (BOI) and has its own Bangladesh Branch Office.

The Supplier Qualification Programme (SQP) Phase VI is funded by LIDL Stiftung & Co. KG and implemented by GIZ International Services in cooperation with Swiss Contact. The Essential Health Care Services (EHS) project is a component of SQP and aims to provide essential healthcare services to RMG workers of 13 selected garment factories in Savar, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Tangail during the period from December 2014 to May 2016. Among other, EHS will also include eye care services and a health education programme.

GIZ IS requests proposals from highly experienced organizations with proficiency in Reproductive Health Care, Child Health Care, Communicable Disease Control, Limited Curative Care & Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) and Eye Care services as well as developing and providing Health Education/Awareness Raising Programmes to develop a consultancy package on "Providing Health Care Service and Health Education for RMG Workers".

Details of the tasks and EOI proposal requirements are mentioned in the Terms of Reference (ToR). The TOR (which also includes the guideline for technical & financial proposal) and any enquiry concerning this EOI should be collected within October 15, 2014 by sending an email to contracts@gizbd.org. Please specify by entering "Providing Health Care Service and Health Education for RMG Workers" in the subject line of your e-mail. Proposal submission deadline is also October 15, 2014.

Interested parties having relevant proven experience should submit their "Technical" and "Financial" proposals in separate sealed envelopes within the stated deadline to the reception desk of GIZ Office Dhaka, Road 90, House 10/C, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212. The envelopes shall be addressed to "GIZ Contracts Division" and bear the remark "Providing Health Care Service and Health Education for RMG Workers".

Please note that GIZ has the right to accept or reject the offer in part or full or may correct, modify or rectify discrepancy, if any, in the offer document without assigning any reason whatsoever.