

A flood-hit village under Jatrapur union in Kurigram Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Flood situation static in three districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The flood situation remained static in Gaibandha, Bogra and Kurigram districts yesterday. According to Water Development Board (WDB), the River Brahmaputra was flowing 17 centimetres above the red mark at Fulchhari point in Gaibandha yesterday while other rivers in the district were flowing below the danger level, reports our correspondent.

The 944-metre flood control dyke at Singria in Fulchhari upazila is on the verge of collapse as surging water started hitting the dyke since morning. Several cracks have developed in the dyke and sand

bags are being dumped at the vulnerable points, said Abdul Awal Mia, executive engineer of WDB in Gaibandha.

The flood-hit people, who took shelter on the dyke, have been asked to move to other safe locations.

According to our Bogra correspondent, the flood situation remained unchanged although the Jamuna was flowing 9 cm above the danger mark at Shariakandi point in the district yesterday.

About 65 metres of the flood control embankment collapsed on Friday afternoon, leaving at least 10,000 people marooned in the low lying areas of 15 villages

under Shariakandi and Dhunat upazilas, said locals.

The affected areas are Haorakhali, Godakhali, Daripara, Buruil, Shutanara, Bibipara under Kamalpur union and Chandanbaisha, Ghugumari, Shekpara, Ponditpara, Bigpara and Noakhila villages under Chandanbaisha union of Shariakandi upazila; and Chikashi, Gazaria and Chuniapara villages under Chikashi and Bhandarbari unions in Dhunat upazila.

Bogra WDB Executive Engineer Md Ruhul Amin said the floodwater started receding from yesterday.

Shariakandi Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shakil Mahmud said three tonnes

of rice was distributed among 300 flood affected families.

In Kurigram, the flood situation in the district remained static yesterday as water levels of 16 rivers have been unchanged, reports our correspondent.

The Brahmaputra and the Dharla rivers were flowing 28 cm and 27 cm under the danger marks at Chilmari ghat point and at Dharla Bridge point, said local WDB source.

About 3,252 hectares of croplands went under the floodwater, said local agriculture office sources.

The floodwater damaged over 200 homesteads at 25 villages in nine upazilas in the last five days, said locals.

Fire kills one, injures 3 in Dinajpur town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An elderly woman was killed and three others were injured in a fire in Dinajpur town early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mirijannessa, 75, wife of late Jabbar Ali of Satellite town (Mohajanpara).

The injured are Azadul Islam, 55, son of Mirijannessa, his wife Rashida Begum, 45, and daughter Sabina Yasmin, 24.

Neighbours saw smoke coming out of Azadul Islam's house at around 5:30am and informed the local fire service station. Firefighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze. The four, including Mirijannessa, received burn injuries as they were asleep.

The firefighters took the injured to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital where Mirijannessa died soon after admission.

Jakir Hossain, station officer of Dinajpur Fire Service Station, said the fire originated from a mosquito coil and soon engulfed the house.

Three boys drown in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three brothers drowned in a pond at Badhaghat in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Amin, 10, Shamim, 8, and Al Amin, 6, sons of Azhar Uddin of Lauerghar village in the upazila.

Union Parishad Chairman Nizam Uddin said the three were playing in the yard of their house and suddenly fell into the adjacent pond at around 5:30pm.

Finding the boys missing, the parents searched for them in the village. At one stage, they found the bodies of the three floating on the pond.

MYMENSINGH TOWN PROTECTION EMBANKMENT

Downpour damages the dyke at 26 points

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Heavy downpour on Saturday caused severe damage to Mymensingh town protection embankment at 26 points.

Some of the damaged points are Khagdohor, Taltola, Kathgola, Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala, Saheb Quarters Park, Kachari Ferry Ghat, Water Development Board (WDB) sources said.

Work of the eight-kilometer embankment from Khagdohor to Bangladesh Agricultural University area began in 1998 and was completed in 2008 under the Secondary Towns Integrated Flood Protection Project (STIFPP) funded by the World Bank.

The district town got

flooded due to heavy rain on Saturday and water rolled down the embankment, causing havoc on it, WDB sources said.

"We started repair work on the day and it is going on. Around 50 workers are engaged in the work," said Md Abdul Mannan Khan, superintendent engineer of WDB Mymensingh Circle.

The repair work must be completed soon as the water level in the Brahmaputra River is going up everyday. It will become difficult to repair the dyke if the water level in the river marks a sharp rise, WDB officials said.

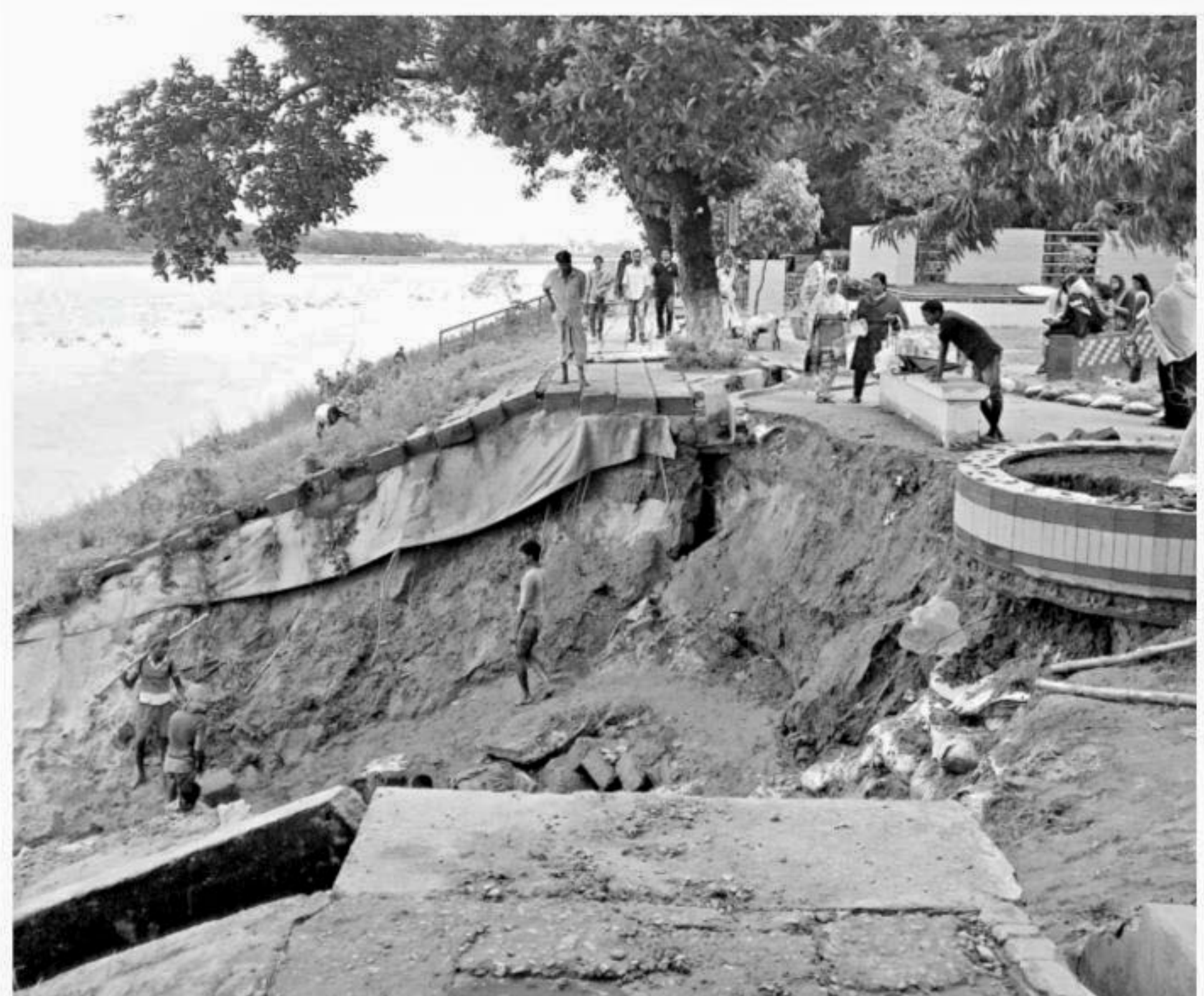
"The repair work will cost Tk one crore and requests for urgent help have been sent to the

authorities concerned," Mannan said.

Faulty drainage system alongside the embankment is the main cause of such havoc. As the water cannot flow out easily after heavy rain, it enters the gaps in the embankment that causes land subsidence, WDB sources said.

"We asked the authorities of Mymensingh municipality to clean up the drains immediately to stop water leaking under the embankment, but they are yet to start the work," they said.

A source at WDB, preferring not to be named, said earth-filling on the embankment during its construction was not done properly.



Mymensingh town protection embankment subsided in Saheb Quarters Park area in the town during downpour on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

MANIKGANJ, DINAJPUR

One arrested, another sued for raping girls

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A youth was held on rape charge in Manikganj while another sued on charge of violating a minor girl in Dinajpur district on Sunday.

In Manikganj, police arrested a young man on charge of raping a schoolgirl in Sadar upazila of the district.

The arrestee is Abdul Awal, 31, son of Najim Uddin of Ukiara village, reports our correspondent.

On May 10, Awal went to visit his friend Wasim in Pashchim Sewta area of the district town where he met the eighth grader with the help of Wasim.

At one stage, Awal raped

the girl and Wasim videoed the scene by his mobile phone. Awal later uploaded the video clip on internet.

When the matter became public, the victim's mother filed a case with Sadar Police Station against the two on Sunday evening.

Soon after filing of the case, police arrested Awal, Officer-in-Charge Aminur Rahman said, adding that they are raiding different areas to arrest the other accused.

The girl was sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital for medical test, said the OC.

Away in Dinajpur, a youth has been sued on charge of raping a 12-year-old domestic help in

Birampur upazila of the district.

The accused is Md Golam Mostafa, 32, son of Khamir Uddin of Beparitola village, reports our correspondent.

The victim's mother filed the case with Birampur Police Station on Sunday night.

On Thursday, Latifa Begum, wife of the girl's employer Anwarul Islam, handed her over to Mostafa who raped the girl, said police.

Mostafa went into hiding soon after filing of the case, said Sub-Inspector Shamsul Alam of the PS.

The girl was sent to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital for medical test, said the SI.



PHOTO: STAR

Current nets, seized by a mobile court from a factory in Baghmari area under Munshiganj Sadar upazila yesterday, were set on fire.

Abduction bid foiled, 3 fake DB men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Law enforcers arrested three people, who identified themselves as officers of the Detective Branch (DB) of Police, in Hakimpur upazila of the district yesterday.

The arrestees are Ripon Roy, 33, son of Sushil Roy, Mamun Hossain, 35, son of Shamsul Alam, and Mujibur Rahman, 35, son of

Mohammad Ali. They all hail from different areas of Rangpur town.

Quoting witnesses, police said the arrestees, posing themselves as DB men, intercepted a motorcyclist and tried to pick him up along with his bike from in front of Hakimpur Women's College.

Hearing screams, locals rushed in and asked the three to show their identity

cards. As they failed to show their ID, locals caught them and beat them up mercilessly.

On information, police went to the spot, rescued the three and took them to Hakimpur Police Station.

Sub-inspector Saju Mia of the police station said they arrested the fake DB men and later sent them to the upazila health complex for treatment.

Six get life for murder in Netrakona

UNB, Netrakona

A court here yesterday sentenced six people to life imprisonment for killing a farmer in Durgapur upazila in 2007.

The convicts are Abdus Sattar, Lal Miah, Saiful Islam, Babul Miah, Suruj Miah and Habibur Rahman. They all are from Telipara village in the upazila.

The court also fined them Tk 20,000 each. In default, they are to suffer two years more in prison.

According to the prosecution, a group of villagers swooped on Khokon Miah while he was working at his farmland at the village on August 7, 2007. They hit Khokon with

sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured.

Khokon succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. The murder was a sequel to a previous enmity.

Victim's uncle Abdul Jalil filed a murder case with Durgapur Police Station the same day, accusing nine people. Later, police pressed charges against the nine.

After examining the witnesses and case record, Judge M Abdul Hamid of the Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court handed down the verdict. The judge acquitted three people as charges brought against them could not be proved.

SNIPPETS

Farmer found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Police recovered the body of a farmer from Gopinathpur village in Abhoynagar upazila of Jessore district on Sunday. The deceased is Anwar Hossain, 43, son of Tota Miah of the village. Nasir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Abhoynagar Police Station, said locals found the body at his house locked from inside and informed the police. Criminals might have killed the farmer three to four days ago, said the OC.

Outlaw arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police arrested an outlaw at Paltadanga village in Harinkundo upazila of the district yesterday morning. The arrestee is Ashadul Islam Asad, 35, regional leader of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), and son of Jamir Hossain of the village. Ershadul Kabir, officer-in-charge of Harinakundo Police Station, said informed that a group of PBCP activists were holding a clandestine meeting in the area at 9:30am they raided the area and arrested Asad. However, his cohorts managed to flee the scene. Asad is accused in several cases including one for arms, said the OC.

Youth jailed for stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A mobile court on Sunday sentenced a youth to two years' imprisonment for stalking a schoolgirl at Noskari village in Gabtoli upazila. The stalker is Monir Hossain, 19, son of Habibur Rahman of the village. Police said Monir often stalked the eighth grader on the way to her private tutor's house. Being informed, locals arrested the youth and handed him over to police on Sunday night.

Trafficker held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police arrested a human trafficker in Chaklapara area of the district town yesterday. The arrestee is Badsha Mollah, 60, of Bashpur village in Shailakupa upazila. He was arrested on charge of trafficking 12 people of the area to Malaysia, said Assistant Superintendent of Police Gopinath Kanjilal. Of the victims, four recently returned to their homes after serving different jail terms in a prison of Malaysia.

Robbers loot house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Armed robbers looted cash and gold ornaments worth Tk 4 lakh from a house after injuring four people at Purbo Bapta village in Sadar upazila on Sunday. Family sources said a gang of 15/20 stormed the house of Anis Patwary, 55, around 1:00am and took away Tk 20,000 and the gold ornaments. The robbers also injured the house owner and his wife Rabeya Begum, 45, son Fahad, 18, and Fahim, 12, as he tried to resist the gang.



BGB destroys around 26,000 bottles of phensidyl at 29 Battalion headquarters at Phulbari in Dinajpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR