

MOULVIBAZAR, SYLHET

Unplanned acts responsible for prolonged floods

Say environmentalists

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Fenchuganj

Environmentalists, civil society members and public representatives have termed anti-nature activities including encroachment of water bodies and construction of unplanned embankments as the main cause of prolonged floods in three upazilas in Moulvibazar and eight upazilas of Sylhet.

"Construction of a one and a half kilometre-long embankment on Hakaluki Haor in Pitaitikor Burikiari area of Fenchuganj upazila under Sylhet in 2004 is responsible for the massive waterlogging in the area," Azizur Rahman, chairman of the Bhukshimul union parishad in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar, told this correspondent.

He demanded immediate removal of the unplanned embankment as it

blocks passage of water and destroys Boro and Aush paddy in the area.

"As wetlands and rivers are dying due to continuous grabbing, water from the upstream fills the floodplains within a short time and overflowing water causes flood and waterlogging," said Abdul Hye Al-Hadi, chief executive of Save the Heritage and Environment.

Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon's Sylhet chapter, said the Surma, Kushiara and Monu rivers are being filled and polluted by grabbers while illegal sand and stone extractions are causing damage to different rivers including Piain, Sari and Dholai.

"In the last two decades, 40-45 percent width of the 110 km-long area of the Surma river in Sylhet, out of the 230-km-long river, has been lost. Besides, the Kushiara's 120-km-long

area in the district, out of the river's total 210-km-long area has lost much of its depth," Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of Water Development Board in Sylhet, said.

Narayan Saha, former head of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology made some recommendations, including effective steps to recover water bodies and canals, dredging rivers, preparing a master plan for drainage system, long-term and short-term plans to remove waterlogging and utilise rainwater.

Hazi Alaiddin, general secretary of Haor Bachao Krisok Bachao Andolon, demanded proper investigation and action against those who grabbed the lands of rivers and haors and built embankment in Burikiari area of Fenchuganj upazila in Sylhet.



This one and a half kilometre-long embankment, constructed on Hakaluki Haor in Pitaitikor Burikiari area of Fenchuganj upazila under Sylhet in 2004, impedes natural flow of water, leading to massive waterlogging in a vast area, said environmentalists and locals. PHOTO: STAR

Erosion-hit students attend classes under open sky

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Students of Saheber Char Government Primary School in Kishoreganj have been continuing their classes under the open sky since July 18 as erosion by the river Brahmaputra devoured the schoolhouse on July 17.

The school has some 227 students at present but it sees poor attendance due to bad weather, said Headmaster Sumon Ranjan Sarkar.

Due to the situation, especially the Class V students are suffering a lot as their model test examination gets underway, he said.

"We have to take classes at the courtyards of local people, but when rain comes, we have to shift the students to the corridors," said the headmaster.

The school established in 1937 was also devoured by Brahmaputra erosion earlier and then the institution was shifted to its

present position in 1999, he said.

Students and their guardians demanded a new school building soon.

Sidhla Union Parishad Chairman Md Siraj Uddin said due to severe erosion by Old Brahmaputra river in Saheber Char area in last 10 years, some 400 families lost their homesteads and cropland.

Md Sadequr Rahman, assistant upazila primary education officer, said they have taken initiative to build a makeshift schoolhouse to continue classes.

Hossainpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdullah Al Mamun said the administration has already allocated six bundles of corrugated iron sheets and Tk 4000 in cash on an emergency basis for making a schoolhouse soon.

The schoolteachers expected that the building of the school house will be completed by this week.



Students of Saheber Char Government Primary School, which was devoured by the Brahmaputra river on July 17, attend class under the open sky in Hossainpur upazila of Kishoreganj. PHOTO: STAR

Hunger

FROM PAGE 16 Alexander Nectow, who published a paper about the study in the journal Cell.

The area of the brainstem under scrutiny is the dorsal raphe nucleus (DRN), where the two types of cells are located.

It is thought new drugs to treat obesity by controlling hunger messages that prompt people to seek out and consume of food could be targeted at those cells.

Dr Nectow, an associate research scholar at Princeton University, found that the DRN section of the brain becomes activated in hungry mice. This was discovered when images were taken using a pioneering technique called DISCO.

Imaging other mice that were given more than their normal amount of food showed a different pattern of DRN activity. This showed that neurons in this part of the brain clearly had a function in feeding behaviour.

Further research is needed to ascertain which types of neurons that make up the DRN are involved in the process.

"There are two possibilities when you see something like that," Dr Nectow said.

"One is that the cells are just along for the ride - they are getting activated by hunger but they're not actually driving the food intake process.

"The other possibility is that they are in fact part of the sense-and-respond mechanism to hunger - and in this case, we suspect the latter."

Pioneering research into obesity in the 1990s led to the discovery of the effect of leptin on appetite. It is a hormone which acts on neurons in the hypothalamus area of the brain which suppresses appetite.

An injection of the hormone led to dramatic weight loss in patients with leptin deficiency, but it was also found that there was no effect on many obese people.

"Obesity is generally associated with leptin resistance," said Dr Friedman, whose lab produced the study. "And our recent data suggest that modulation of the activity of specific neurons with drugs could bypass leptin resistance and provide a new means for reducing body weight."

The new research findings could be effective in creating treatments for obesity and its related issues including diabetes.

High yield fails to cheer up jute growers

Prices low as five out of six government purchasing centres yet to start functioning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Jute growers of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh are worried due to low market price despite expectation of bumper production this season.

During a recent visit to different villages in these districts, this correspondent saw jute farmers busy cutting and processing the crop as harvesting is going on in full swing.

Ramesh Chandra Barman, 55, of Dakkhin Bathina village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila told this correspondent that he cultivated jute on 50 decimals of land and produced 14 maunds (one maund = 40 kg) of jute fibre spending Tk 12,000. He sold five maunds at Tk 1,250 per maund, he added.

"We cannot get good profit by cultivating the crop as the market price is lower than last year," Ramesh said.

Sajjad Selim, 47, of Rosea village in Atway upazila of Panchagarh said he cultivated jute on 2.5 acres of land, adding that although the production of jute is good, the low market price is worrying them.

Altaf Hossain, a local jute trader of Sakoya Bazar in Boda upazila, said jute is being sold for Tk 1,200 to Tk 1,400 per maund, depending on quality. It is lower than last year, when it was sold for Tk 1,600 to Tk 1,800.

Thakurgaon Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Habibul Islam said the growers should get good price as the demand for environment-friendly and

diversified jute goods was increasing day-by-day, at home and abroad.

If the jute purchasing centres in the district function properly, the growers can get fair prices that will help them make good profit, he added.

Chief Inspector of Thakurgaon Jute Directorate Abu Ehia said six jute purchasing centres have been set up in the two districts.

One centre was opened at Amin Jute Mills in Thakurgaon on July 23 for purchasing raw jute this year, but sales are yet to get momentum. The rest of the centres are yet to open, he added.

Deputy Director (DD) of Thakurgaon Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Moududul Islam said jute was cultivated on 8,720 hectares of land in Thakurgaon against the target of 9,580 hectares, with production target of one lakh 3,326 bales.

DD of Panchagarh DAE Shamsul Haque said jute was cultivated on 13,580 hectares of land against the target of 13,570 hectares, with production target of one lakh 47,313 bales.

Tosha variety of jute covered about 85 per cent of cultivated land and local variety covered 15 per cent, and the quality is good, farmers and DAE officials said.

Shamsul said jute grew well due to favourable weather condition and smooth supply of agriculture inputs, adding that harvesting is going on in full swing and production will exceed the target.

JMB man gets life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A court here yesterday sentenced an activist of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to life term imprisonment in an arms case.

The lifer is Md Selim alias Harun Mistri, 34, son of Durul Huda of Johurpur-Bokripara in Sadar upazila.

According to the prosecution, Rapid Action Battalion arrested Harun from his house on July 7 in 2009. They also recovered a pistol, nine bullets and two magazines from his possession.

Sub-Inspector Anwar Hossain of Rab-5 filed a case, accusing Harun, with Sadar Police Station under Arms Act.

After examining witnesses and evidence, Judge of Special Tribunal-2, also additional district and sessions judge of Chapainawabganj, Ziaur Rahman found Harun guilty and pronounced the verdict.

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Model 'kills

FROM PAGE 2

herself, she was talking to her husband, an employee of a buying house, through WhatsApp. Her husband had gone to Narsingdi for official work and she was alone at home.

Seeing Risila trying to commit suicide, her hus-

band cut the video call and phoned his mother-in-law who then rushed to the house and broke in only to find her hanging from the ceiling.

Reasons behind the suicide could not be known, but police suspected that she had been suffering from

depression. The couple have a four-year-old daughter.

An unnatural death case was filed with Gulshan police in connection with the incident. Risila's body was taken to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

As the news of Risila's

death spread, many of her acquaintances expressed shock on Facebook.

Born and raised in Chittagong, Risila was pursuing her undergraduate in English literature at Atish Dipankar University of Science and Technology, alongside modeling.

10-year jail

FROM PAGE 16

(whichever is highest).

He said for destroying or damaging establishments, like power station, substation, power lines, poles and equipment, or indulging in sabotage, one could be sentenced to minimum seven and maximum 10 years in prison or fined between Tk 10,000 and Tk 10 crore or both.

A person might be punished with up to one year jail sentence or Tk 5 lakh fine or

both for intentionally wasting electricity.

According to the draft law, for stealing equipment related to power supply, one could be sentenced to minimum one and maximum five years in jail and fined between Tk 50,000 and Tk 5 lakh.

Possession of stolen equipment knowingly could result in a sentence of up to two years in jail or Tk 50,000 fine or both, the cabinet secretary said.

Any power employee violating the law, like providing illegal connections even if it was outside the employee's jurisdiction, or doing faulty work, could face up to one year in jail or Tk one lakh fine or both.

Power employees guilty of similar offences that have not been mentioned in the draft law could face up to six months' imprisonment or Tk 10,000 fine or both, the cabinet secretary said.

The draft law proposed

introduction of independent system operator (ISO) to run the country's power system in a coordinated manner as well as ensure better load management, he added.

The cabinet secretary said once passed, the new law would prevent the PDB, Desco and Desa from providing new power connection or doing any public work in their jurisdictions without notifying higher authorities.

Rapist killed

FROM PAGE 16

The couple have a 11-year-old daughter who lives in Bhola. Whenever she came to Dhaka, Tanha used to play with her, said victim's cousin Akram Hossain.

Some 10 to 12 rooms rented by families are there in one plot where Shipon resides. They share one toilet.

On the day of the incident, Tanha's father Mehedi Hasan, who is a private car driver, left home early morning for work just like any other day, Akram said.

Tanha's another neighbour Jaheda Akter Koly was shifting to another room that

day. Around 5:00pm, Tanha told her mother she was going to help her Koly aunty. An hour later, a woman holding Tanha's body came out of the toilet and cried out.

"At first, we thought she might have fallen from the rooftop, but on the way to hospital we found her bleeding and black mark around her throat," Akram said. Doctors declared her dead on arrival at the hospital.

On information, police raided the rooms and found a towel with stains of blood under the bed of Shipon. Later, his T-shirt and lungi

were found inside a bucket with blood stains.

DB Joint Commissioner Baten said Shipon had recently been working as a day labourer, but he had records of serving five years in jail in a robbery case filed with Chawkbazar Police Station.

"We have already seized the clothes and other evidence against Shipon. He also admitted his involvement but we will interrogate him more regarding his actual profession and activities.

"We really feel shame to identify Shipon as a human being. We will try to ensure

his exemplary punishment," Baten added.

Tanha's mother Sultana Begum recently left her job at a garment factory to take care of her only daughter. Ever since she learnt about the death of her beloved child, she was losing consciousness again and again.

An autopsy of Tanha's body was conducted at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. She will be buried at her native village Jamalpur, family said.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court placed Shipon on six-day remand for interrogation.

বাংলাদেশ দুগ্ধ উৎপাদনকারী সমবায় ইউনিয়ন লিঃ
প্রধান কার্যালয় : দুগ্ধ ভবন, ১৩৯-১৪০, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮
টেলিফোন নং- ০২-৮৮৭০৪৪৪-৪৫ (পিএবি এক্স), ইমেইল : Info@milkvita.org
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আইনজীবী ফার্ম নিয়োগের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ দুগ্ধ উৎপাদনকারী সমবায় ইউনিয়ন লিঃ এর মহামান্য সূপ্রীম কোর্টের আপিল বিভাগ, হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ, জেলা জজ আদালত, ঢাকা, প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল আদালত, ঢাকা ও শ্রম আদালত, ঢাকাতে বিচারার্থী বা ভবিষ্যতে মোকাবেলাযোগ্য মোকদ্দমাসমূহ মিক্স ইউনিয়নের পক্ষে পরিচালনার নিমিত্ত আইনজীবী ফার্ম নিয়োগের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী ল' ফার্ম এর নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

- ক) আইনজীবী হিসেবে ন্যূনতম ১০ (দশ) বছরের পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতা, তন্মধ্যে-মহামান্য সূপ্রীম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে ন্যূনতম ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- খ) আদালতে সুনামের সাথে নিয়মিত মামলা পরিচালনায় প্রার্থীর অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- গ) প্রার্থীকে কোম্পানীর আইন, শ্রম আইন, সমবায় সমিতি আইন ও সমবায় সমিতি বিধিমালা আইন, অর্থসংক্রান্ত আইন, চুক্তি আইন, সম্পত্তি হস্তান্তর আইন, ক্যাপিটাল মার্কেট আইন, চাকুরী সংক্রান্ত আইন-কানুনসহ সিভিল আইনে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন হতে হবে;
- ঘ) ফার্মের ক্ষেত্রে ন্যূনতম ০৩ (তিন) জন সনদপ্রাপ্ত (তন্মধ্যে ন্যূনতম ২ (দুই) জনকে "ক"-তে বর্ণিত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন হতে হবে;
- ঙ) প্রার্থীকে সুস্বাস্থ্যের অধিকারী হতে হবে;
- ২.০ প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, বর্তমান ঠিকানা (ফোন নং সহ) জন্ম তারিখ ও ৩১/০৭/২০১৭ তারিখে বয়স, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, আইনজীবী হিসেবে তালিকাভুক্ত হওয়ার তারিখ, আইন ব্যবসার মেয়াদ, প্রশিক্ষণ ও অভিজ্ঞতার বিবরণ এবং কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে প্যানেল আইনজীবী হিসেবে তালিকাভুক্ত কিনা তা উল্লেখপূর্বক নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্রাদিসহ আবেদন করতে হবে:
 - ক) সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি;
 - খ) বাংলাদেশ বার কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদপত্র, সংশ্লিষ্ট বার এসোসিয়েশনের সদস্য পদের সনদপত্র এবং মহামান্য হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ ও আপিল বিভাগে মামলা পরিচালনার প্রমানপত্রের অনুলিপি;
 - গ) ০২ (দুই) কপি সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি;
 - ঘ) মহামান্য হাইকোর্ট ও সূপ্রীম কোর্টসহ নিম্ন আদালতে মামলা পরিচালনায় খাতওয়ারী সিডিউল অব রেইট;
 - ঙ) ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও আয়কর প্রদানের সত্যায়িত কপি;
- ৩.০ শর্তাবলী :
 - ক) আগামী ৩০/০৮/২০১৭ তারিখের মধ্যে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ১৩৯-১৪০, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা বরাবরে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
 - খ) খামের উপর "আইনজীবী ফার্ম নিয়োগের জন্য আবেদন" উল্লেখ করতে হবে;
 - গ) ল' ফার্ম এর প্রত্যেক আইনজীবীর পৃথক জীবন বৃত্তান্ত/ছবি/সনদ দিতে হবে;
 - ঘ) সাক্ষাৎকার গ্রহণের ভিত্তিতে আইনজীবী ফার্ম নিয়োগ করা হবে;
 - ঙ) ঢাকার সুবিধাজনক স্থানে ল' ফার্মের নিজস্ব চেম্বার থাকতে হবে;
 - চ) কর্তৃপক্ষের তলবমতে বাংলাদেশ দুগ্ধ উৎপাদনকারী সমবায় ইউনিয়ন লিঃ এর প্রধান কার্যালয়কে সংশ্লিষ্ট আইন বা মামলার অগ্রগতি সম্পর্কে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে অবহিতকরণের মানসিকতা সম্পন্ন হতে হবে;
 - ছ) নিয়োগযোগ্য আইনজীবী ফার্মকে মিক্স ইউনিয়ন কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত সিডিউল অফ রেইটের ভিত্তিতে কেইস টু কেইস মামলা পরিচালনার বিপরীতে ফি প্রদান করা হবে এবং মামলা পরিচালনা বা মামলার অগ্রগতি পর্যালোচনাতে যুক্তিগত সময়ে ধার্যকৃত ফি প্রদেয় হবে;
 - জ) এই নিয়োগ প্রার্থীমতভাবে ০২ (দুই) বছরের জন্য কার্যকরী থাকবে। তবে দুই বছর পর পুনর্নিয়োগ এবং ০২ (দুই) বছরের পূর্বেই কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে নিয়োগ বাতিলের ক্ষমতা মিক্স ইউনিয়ন সংরক্ষণ করে; সেই ক্ষেত্রে মামলা সংক্রান্ত সমৃদয় ডকুমেন্ট মিক্স ইউনিয়নকে বুঝিয়ে দিতে হবে;
 - ঝ) কোন মামলা অন্যের নিকট হস্তান্তর করা যাবে না বা অন্য কাহাকে মামলা পরিচালনার দায়িত্ব ন্যস্ত করা যাবে না;
 - ঞ) প্যানেল আইনজীবী নিয়োগের বিষয়ে মিক্স ইউনিয়নের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

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