



FURY OF FLOODS: Clockwise from left, AC Land Bosti area in Thakurgaon municipality lies ravaged after recession of floodwater, houses at Shiberkut village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila still remains under floodwater, and locals men an embankment in an attempt to save their houses from flooding at Singria in Fulchhari upazila of Gabandha.



PHOTO: STAR

LEAKS IN TANGAIL FLOOD CONTROL DYKE Jamuna water keeps rising

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail
Water continues entering localities in Bhuapur upazila through leaks at several points in Tangail-Tarakandi flood control embankment due to the huge pressure of water of the Jamuna river.
If such situation continues, vast areas in Bhuapur, Gopalpur, Kalihati and Chatail upazilas will be flooded soon, locals said.
Shahjan Siraj, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) in Tangail, however, assured all saying that they were working hard to protect the embankment.
Due to heavy rain and onrush of water from the upstream, water level

keeps on increasing in the Jamuna, the WDB official said, adding, that the water was flowing above 126cm of the danger level at Singria point yesterday.
Sources at different upazila parishads said thousands of people living in the char areas of Bhuapur, Gopalpur, Kalihati, Nagarpur and Sadar upazilas are badly affected by the flash flood.
Besides, standing crops of several thousand hectares of land were also damaged.
Thousands of flood-hit people in the areas have taken shelter at different roads, embankments, and at their relatives' houses or shifted to others safe places.
Of the areas, Gabsara, Arjuna, Govindashi, Nikrail and Aloa

unions in Bhuapur and the upazila headquarters are the worst affected, said Bhuapur Upazila Parishad's acting Chairman Shahimul Islam Badal.
Due to the huge pressure of the floodwater Kostapara-Bhalkuthia road was badly damaged on Monday, he said.
Meanwhile, around 50 educational institutions in the flood-hit areas were declared closed due to the situation, he added.
Bhuapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ashraf Hossain said he along with the UP chairman of the affected unions have visited the areas and they are taking initiatives to arrange relief for the flood-hit people.



Nine more homesteads at Boro Baliadangi village in Faridpur's Char Bhadrason upazila go into the river Padma yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Youth found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
A youth, aged about 22, was found dead in Akta Bypass area in the town yesterday.
Police identified a brick-field worker named Mofazzal Hossain of the Mofazzal Hossain of the area for interrogation.
Informed by some brick-field workers, the law enforcers recovered the body around 10:00am, said Abul Monsur Ahmed, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station.
The body bore injury marks on its back, said the OC.
The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, he said.
The identity of the deceased could not be known as of filing of this report around 7:00pm yesterday, said the police official.

Substandard materials cause damage to Jhenidah roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah
Big potholes have developed on around 74 kilometers of the Magura-Jhenidah and Jessore-Jhenidah roads, much to the disfavor of commuters, drivers and pedestrians.
On a recent visit to some spots, this correspondent found that there are hundreds of big potholes on those roads. As a result, drivers sometimes lose control over the vehicles and meet with accidents.
Jhenidah Roads and Highways Department (RHID) Executive Engineer Selim Azad Khan said they invited tender of Tk 5.88 crore in May, 2017, for repair of the Kaliganj-Jhenidah road. The work started in the first week of June, but the road got damaged again within 22 days as substandard materials were used and the surface was not covered with bitumen, he added.
Selim said bricks are being used temporarily to fill up the holes as tar and bricks get washed away during the rainy season. The roads will be paved properly

after the rainy season, he added.
On Sunday, this correspondent found that bricks were being used to fill big holes that caused auto-rickshaws to topple over on the road at Bakulia-Khayertala area under Kaliganj upazila.
Vehicles from Chittagong, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet ply this road to go to Jessore.
Jhenidah Fire Service sources said around 370 road mishaps occurred on the two roads between 2015 and 2017, in which 57 people died and 660 sustained injuries.
Lima Khatun, a Class X student at Salimunnessa Girls' School, said passing vehicles sometimes splash them with the water in the potholes, so they have to go back home.
Driver Shariful Islam of Dhaka-bond Royal Express said it takes more than one hour to reach Jhenidah from Jessore due to the broken road and potholes on the Jhenidah-Jessore road.



Several potholes have developed on Jhenidah-Jessore road, causing immense sufferings to commuters and drivers. PHOTO: STAR

Escapes death but endures endless suffering

Sujan only survivor of Dinajpur pesticide victims

KONGKON KARMAKER with ANDREW EAGLE

Sujan Hossain, now eight years old, was the lucky one. In June 2012 he was one of fourteen children in Dinajpur and Thakurgaon who fell sick after eating toxic litchis from gardens recently sprayed with pesticide. All were treated at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital. Sujan alone survived. Five years later however, the boy suffers the long-term effects of the poisoning.
"Sujan always mumbles to himself at home," says his distraught father Md Jalal Uddin, from Jazal village in Dinajpur's Biral upazila. "He reacts to everything badly. He is sleepless." The boy is currently a class-two student of Jharpukur Government Primary School.
"All he did was to buy some toxic litchis fallen from an orchard," his father explains, "and that night, he ate two of them." By morning his son had a strong stomach ache and was vomiting. His parents rushed Sujan to the nearby Biral Upazila Health Complex, from where he was referred to the hospital in Dinajpur. "My son was in hospital for a week," says Jalal Uddin.
Sujan's family want exemplary punishment for those who caused the deaths of the other children and Sujan's ongoing suffering.
Meanwhile, Nure Asa from Purba Mobshepur village in Biral, who is the mother of Shailla, one of the children who died, urges the government to file a case against the



Md Jalal Uddin helps his son Sujan Hossain to move at his home in Dinajpur's Biral upazila. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

pesticide trader and litchi farmers responsible for the 2012 catastrophe. Unfortunately it's not the only time children have died in the region after eating pesticide-sprayed litchis. In 2015 another eleven children succumbed after eating the toxic fruit.
Pesticide traders have told The Daily Star that excessive use of pesticides by litchi farmers used to be a common practice.
"I stopped eating litchis due to the large amounts of pesticide the farmers use," says one pesticide trader Raiful Islam. "But the trend of using

such large amounts is on the decline now." Nonetheless excessive pesticide use is a practice from which traders benefit. "Pesticide sellers earn a lot of money across the district each litchi season," says Aminul Islam from Rampur village in Biral.
One litchi orchardist, Anwarul Islam from Madhabhat village in Biral says the deaths of children in 2012 and 2015 have made growers more aware of the dangers. "Most orchardists avoid excessive pesticide use nowadays," he says.