



PHOTO: STAR

**Collapse of this embankment on the Dharla river at Dakkhin Shiberkuti village in Kulaghat union under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila on August 11 caused flooding in 15 villages of the nearby areas. Locals have blamed the negligence of Water Development Board officials for the disaster.**

# Dyke collapse caused the flood

*Locals blame negligence of WDB for inundation of 15 Lalmonirhat villages*

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Flood victims in 15 villages at Kulaghat union in Sadar upazila blamed the Water Development Board (WDB) for the collapse of a dyke along the Dharla river at Dakkhin Shiberkuti village.

About 300 metres of the dyke collapsed on August 11, flooding the 15 villages, locals said, adding that WDB did not do the repair work of the dyke properly.

Maziron Bewa, 58, widow of late Soleman Ali of the village, said her two houses were washed away by floodwater when the dyke collapsed, and she along with her four-member family are passing their days under the open sky. "If WDB had done the repair work properly, the dyke would not have collapsed and my houses would not have been washed away," she said, adding that WDB is responsible for rendering them homeless.

Sonabhan Bewa, 62, said they lost their houses due to the negligence of WDB officials. "The government allocated money to save us from erosion by the Dharla river, but WDB officials did not use the money properly," she added.

"WDB officials, along with the contractor, misappropriated most of the fund without doing the repair work properly," said flood victim Syed Ali, 48. "There were a large number of bags filled with sand, but those were not dumped before the flood, so the dyke collapsed," he added.

Kulaghat Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Idris Ali said if all the bags had been dumped in time, the dyke would not have collapsed and so many villages would not have been flooded. "Negligence of WDB officials is responsible for collapse of the dyke," he alleged.

Contractor of the work, Karmokar Agency's proprietor Dulal Chandra Karmokar told this

correspondent to talk to WDB officials for information in this regard.

Sub Divisional Engineer of the district WDB Abdullah Al-Mamun said repair work was done properly, but the Dharla river overflowed the dyke, so it collapsed. "First phase of the work costing Tk 13 lakh was completed in the last week of July, while only 20 percent the work of the second phase, costing Tk 1,20,83,000, was done in the first week of August," he said.

Rejecting the allegation that negligence by WDB officials was responsible for the collapse of the dyke, Executive Engineer of district WDB Krishno Kamol Sarker said the GO bags filled with sand were not dumped as they had not been counted by the authorities.

Residents of the 15 villages urged the authorities concerned to investigate the matter and take necessary steps if WDB officials or the contractor are found responsible for collapse of the dyke.

## Schoolboy killed by drug addict in-law

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

An eleven-year-old boy was brutally murdered allegedly by his cousin's husband while trying to save his father from the wrath of the drug addict in-law at Beparipara village in Nilokkhia union of Bakshiganj upazila under the district yesterday morning.

The deceased, Rana, son of Mozammel Haque of the village, was a Class IV student of Nilokkhia Government Primary School.

Police arrested Babu, 30, and his brother Omar Faruk, 18, sons of Abdus Salam of the same village, in connection with the murder.

Babu, son-in-law of Maskut, elder brother of the victim's father Mozammel, is a drug addict.

Babu often put pressure on Maskut to give him money to buy liquor, police quoted the

victim's family members assaying.

As Maskut and his brothers Mozammel and Golam Mostafa strongly objected to Babu's drinking habit and decided not to give him any money for the purpose, Babu got furious.

Babu and his men started beating his in-laws around 10:00am yesterday.

As Rana came forward to save his father, Babu hit him on the throat with a shabol (a sharp object used for digging earth), leaving him critically injured, said Mohammad Rubel Mia, officer-in-charge (Investigation) of Bakshiganj Police Station.

Rana died on the way to Baksiganj Upazila Health Complex.

Informed, police rushed to the spot and arrested Babu and Omar Faruk, the OC said, adding that they sent the body to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Traditional boat race held

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Like every year, a colourful traditional boat race was organised on the Madhumati river in Bagerhat yesterday, amid festivity and enthusiasm.

Mollahat Freedom Fighters' Command Council was the organiser of the event which was witnessed by nearly 50,000 people.

Seven giant boats from Bagerhat, Khulna and Gopalganj took part in the race where Bhai Bhai Jalpori, a boat from Khulna, was crowned as the champion.

Bagerhat Deputy Commissioner Tapan Kumar Biswas and Mollahat Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shamim Hossain were present on the occasion.

## KISHOREGANJ BOAT CAPSIZES

# Bodies of 4 missing people recovered

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Police on Monday recovered the bodies of four people, who went missing in separate boat capsizes in Bhairab and Itna upazilas on Saturday and Sunday.

The deceased are Arun Banarjee, 28, of Debhata upazila in Satkhira, Gobinda Chandra, 35, of Patnitola upazila of Naogaon, Abdul Mazid, 55, of Ujarkanda village and Mohammad Ibrahim, 47, of Gojaria village in Itna upazila of the district.

Police recovered the bodies of Aurun and Gobinda from Meghna river in Bhairab around 10:30am.

The duo went missing when an engine boat with 10 passengers onboard capsized in the river on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the bodies of raw hide traders Mazid and Ibrahim, who went missing during a boat capsize on Sunday night, were recovered from Alongjuri canal (a local water body) in Itna upazila around 10:00am.

Kishoreganj Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Rakib Khan said the four bodies were handed over to their respective family members.

## Relief for flood victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Over two thousand flood affected people in Sirajganj's Shahzadpur and Ullapara upazilas and Pabna's Sadar and Bera upazilas received relief materials in the last couple of days.

Dhaka Community Hospital in association with Mercury Malaysia, a Malaysian donor organisation, distributed foods items among the flood victims in the two districts.

The two organisations distributed relief materials at different villages in Shahzadpur and Ullapara upazilas of Sirajganj on Monday, while the flood affected people in Bera and Pabna Sadar upazilas received the support yesterday, said Waqar Hossain, director of the hospital.

## Logs piled on schoolground

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

An influential person has been keeping huge logs on the playground of Kobi Jasimudddin School and College in Kaijuri union under Sadar upazila for the last eight months, depriving the students of a place to play.

Students said the trunks were put on their playground last January during widening of the Badoepur-Saltha Road. They were told that the trunks would be removed within 15 days, but those have not been removed as yet, they added.

Headmaster Mizanur Rahman said, "Fakir Faruk Hossain, son of the School Managing Committee President, also former Chairman of Kaijuri Union Parishad, Md Siddikur Rahman, kept those trunks on our school ground in January, saying that it would be only for 15 days. I asked him several times to remove them, but he did not pay any heed to my words."

Siddikur said, "I allowed Faruk to keep the trunks because he is my son. He said he would remove those within 15 days, but he has kept them there for eight months as he could not get a profitable offer for them."

District Education Office Porimal Chandra Mondol said, "I shall talk with the headmaster of the school as soon as possible."



**An influential person has kept huge logs on the playground of Kobi Jasimudddin School and College in Faridpur Sadar upazila for the last eight months, depriving the students of playing game.**

PHOTO: STAR

## Missing man found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Police on Monday recovered the body of a 35-year-old man floating in a canal in Mathbaria upazila of the district, two days after he went missing.

The deceased Mohammad Dulal, of Betmore Rajpara village in the upazila, was a labourer at a timber market in Nesarabad upazila.

Quoting deceased's family members, police said Dulal went out of his house on the Eid day saying he would return in two days.

Later, his family members repeatedly tried to reach him over cell phone but it was found switched off, Officer-in-Charge of Mathbaria Police Station Tarikul Islam said.

Locals spotted Dulal's body floating in a canal at neighbouring Kalirhaat village and informed the police, who went to the spot and recovered it.

The body bore several injury marks, the OC added.

# Mahananda, Teesta erosion on

*The two rivers devour around 80 homesteads and make many homeless*

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Erosion by Mahananda river in Chapainawabganj and Teesta in Nilphamari has rendered a number of families homeless in the two districts in the last couple of days.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reports: Erosion by the Mahananda took a serious turn, devouring about 50 dwelling houses at Dewantola village under Sundarpur union in Sadar upazila of the district within a week.

Besides, about three-kilometre area of the river bank at the village is facing serious threat of erosion anytime.

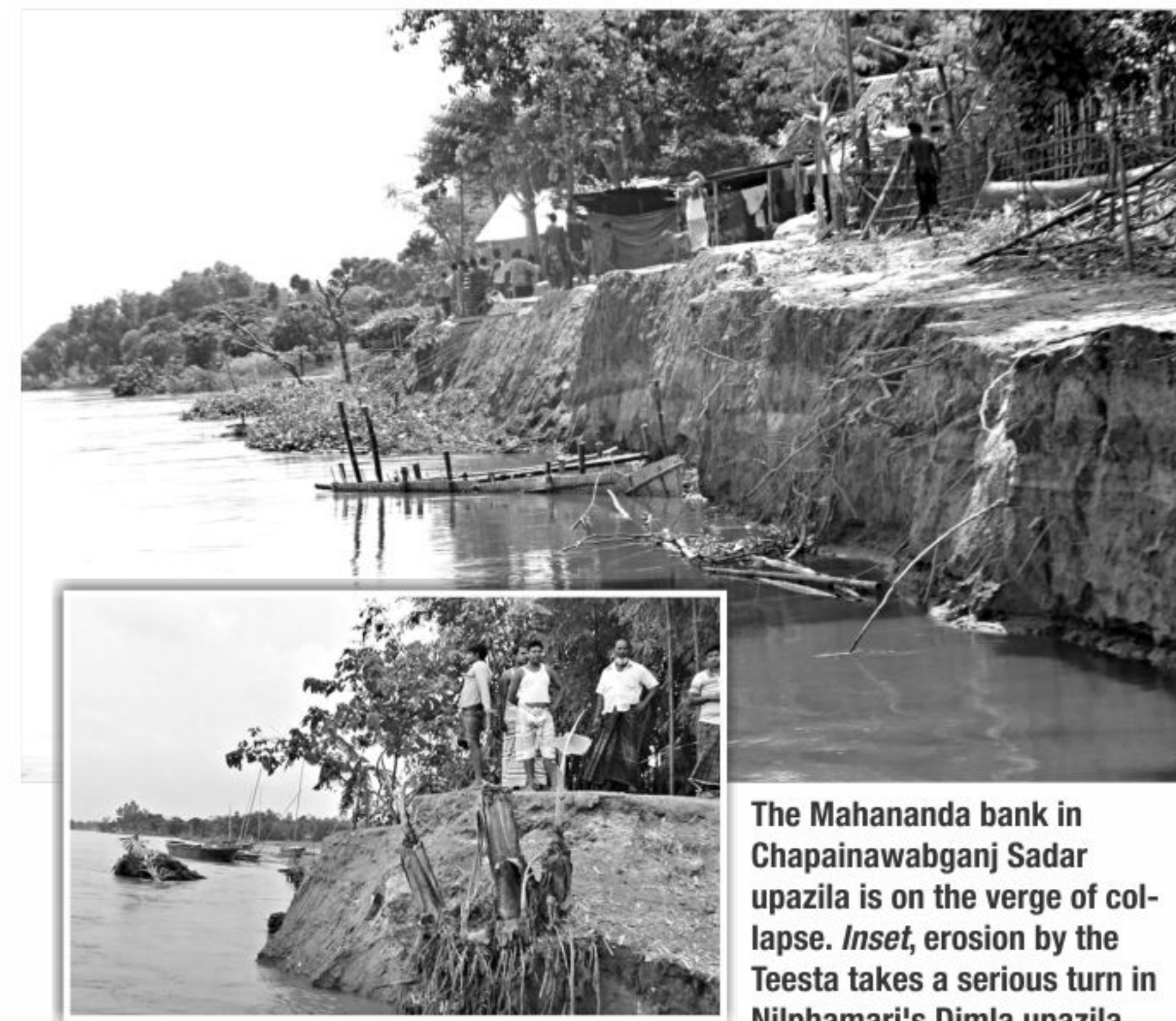
Villagers said about 50 houses, farmlands, bamboo clusters and mango orchards have already gone into the Mahananda in the last couple of days.

People living in the area are shifting their homesteads from the erosion-hit village to safer places as the river is devouring fresh areas every day.

"As I do not have any other land, I took lease of a land from one of the villagers and erected a tin-roofed house there for my family," said Abdus Samad of Dewantola village.

Ekrumul Haque of the village alleged that the Water Development Board (WDB) did not take necessary steps to check the erosion.

Meanwhile, locals urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to save



**The Mahananda bank in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila is on the verge of collapse. Inset, erosion by the Teesta takes a serious turn in Nilphamari's Dimla upazila.**

PHOTO: STAR

hundreds of people and their belongings, including homesteads and croplands, from further erosion.

Chapainawabganj WDB Executive Engineer Syed Shahidul Alam said although

they have visited the erosion-hit areas, they did not have any allocation of funds to take any immediate steps in this regard.

Meanwhile, our Nilphamari correspondent adds: 50-year-old Alima Begum of

Purbo Kharibari Dighirpar village in Dimla upazila was looking bleakly towards the flowing Teesta yesterday.

The previous night, the mighty Teesta devoured her homestead, two bighas of cultivable land and everything she had.

Alima, her sick husband and adolescent son have taken shelter on the right embankment of the Teesta yesterday.

"About 28 houses have been devoured in the last three days due to the erosion and around 100 homesteads are also facing the threat of being eroded at anytime," said Nurul Islam, a ward member of Tepa Kharibari Union Parishad (UP).

"Only a week ago, the river was flowing 400 feet from the village but erosion took a devastating turn with the recession of floodwater," said Sukur Ali, 60, of the village.

Widow Rahima Begum said, "My tin-roofed house, utensils, trees and stored paddy were washed away in front of my eyes and I had to take shelter on the embankment with my two teenage daughters."

Abeda Begum, 45, wife of day labourer Sukuru Mia, said her two kids are crying for food as the family is passing days in utter miseries.

Nilphamari Deputy Commissioner Khaled Rahim said he had sent letters to WDB officials to take immediate steps to prevent further erosion by dumping sandbags and CC blocks.

## Cops assault journo inside police station

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Some members of the district Government Railway Police (GRP) allegedly beat up a cameraman of a private television channel in the GRP Police Station yesterday.

The victim is Al Amin Talukdar, 34, a cameraman of Jamuna Television.

Witnesses said Al Amin, who came to Dinajpur to celebrate Eid with his family members, was waiting at the platform of the station to collect tickets for returning to Dhaka when Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of the police station Yousuf Ali, who was in plainclothes, pushed him from behind.

As Al Amin protested, Yousuf dragged him into the police station where the policemen slapped him indiscriminately and threatened to implicate him in drug peddling cases.

Al Amin told this correspondent that the policemen became furious when he identified himself as a video journalist. "They threw away my identity card when I showed it to them," he added.

Hearing about the incident, local media workers rushed to the spot and rescued Al Amin.

The victim filed a written complaint with the police station yesterday.

Officer-in-Charge of the police station Saidur Rahman said his department closed the ASI for the incident.

The journalists in the district condemned the incident.

Dinajpur Press Club President Swarup Kumar Bakshi said attacks on pressmen by members of law enforcement agencies have increased in the country recently. Torturing any person inside a police station is a serious offense, he added.

He hailed the prompt action of closing the accused ASI and urged the police to launch an investigation as more policemen were involved in beating Al Amin.

Television Camerajournalists' Association of Dinajpur also condemned the attack.