



Scenes of erosion by the Padma river at Bahadurpur Bazar in Harirampur upazila of Manikganj and right, Haiarpar village in Tongibari upazila of Munshiganj.

PHOTO: STAR



300 houses lost to Padma

Over 600 families become homeless in Manikganj, Munshiganj

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Erosion by the Padma river has turned serious in different areas of Manikganj and Munshiganj.

The river devoured the whole of Boro Bahadurpur village and large portions of five other villages under Harirampur upazila in Manikganj during the last few years, reports our correspondent.

According to a NASA report, Harirampur is the worst affected area due to river erosion in Bangladesh.

Ten among the 13 unions of the upazila are affected by the erosion.

Most of the Lechraganj, Sutoriali, Azimnagar and Kanchanpur unions went into the river while large portions of Harukandi, Dhulsura, Boyra, Ramkrishnapur, Gopinathpur and Balla were badly affected due to erosion by Padma.

"In last one month, more than 600 families became homeless as 300 houses of Boro Bahadurpur, Chhoto Bahadurpur and Degirchar villages of Gopinathpur union were washed away. One hundred and fifty more houses in Ramkrishnapur union were eroded along with paddy fields and business set-ups," said Abdul Kuddus, chair-

man of Gopinathpur Union Parishad.

Many other families are under the threat of devastating river erosion, he said.

During a visit to the erosion hit areas, a number of villagers were seen leaving their houses to shift to safer places in fear of further erosion.

"After losing our houses to the river, I along with some other families live on the land of Wahab Munshi of Degirchar village and each family has to pay Tk 2,000 as rent to the land owner," said 70-year-old Abdul Latif of Chhoto Bahadurpur.

Day labourers Berek Shikdar and Selim Mallik of Boro Bahadurpur village also took shelter at Degirchar village after their house was devoured early this season.

Fisherman Sharif Mirza of Chhoto Bahadurpur village said he along with his elderly mother, wife and two adult daughters stay in a one-room tin-shed house on a rented land in a neighbouring area as he lost his house in this year's erosion.

Hafiz Uddin Bepari, 70, Tara Banu, 60, and Suruj Ali, 55, of Boro Bahadurpur village said they lost everything in the river erosion this year.

Many of the erosion-hit people have similar tales to tell.

All the 1,200 families of Boro Bahadurpur village lost their homestead as the river erosion destroyed the entire village in last 10 years, locals said.

They urged the government to arrange housing for all the erosion victim families and make permanent concrete embankment to check the river erosion.

Manikganj Water Development Board (WDB) Executive Engineer Mahbube Mawla Md Mehedi Hasan said his department dumped Geo bags at five points of the river recently to prevent the erosion in Bahadurpur and Ramkrishnapur areas.

"We are planning to build a permanent embankment there in next dry season, he said.

Our Munshiganj Correspondent reports: Erosion by the Padma has rendered eight families homeless at Haiarpar village in Tongibari upazila under the district in last week.

Many other houses and infrastructures are under threat.

The erosion has been expedited by strong waves on both sides of the river due to unplanned dredging and movement of ships carrying sand.

In last year, 14 families in the village were affected by the river erosion. Many

important structures including tube-wells in the village also went into the river.

"Erosion started in Hasail of Tongibari and Paikara village under Louhajang upazila in this season. The government shelter centre at Paikara village went into the river at the beginning of the rainy season," Munshiganj Deputy Commissioner Saila Farzana said.

Unplanned dredging and land grabbing has been changing the course of the river and causing erosion at Haiarpar, said President of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon's Munshiganj unit and Munshiganj Nadi Bachao Committee advocate Mujibur Rahman.

Since 1993 the Padma has devoured at least 39 villages on its both banks, mostly in Naria of Shariatpur on the other side of Munshiganj, he said.

Tongibari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mosammat Hasina Akter said she has written to the WDB to take necessary steps to prevent river erosion.

"I have also asked the authorities concerned to take action after investigation against the people involved with unplanned dredging. Steps have also been taken to stop movement of sand carrying vessels that create strong waves on the river," she said.

Husband

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more liberal outlook in Indian society with the Supreme Court having on September 6 scrapped a ban on gay sex dating back to 1861.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, DY Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra, the lone woman in the bench, said unequal treatment of women invites the wrath of the Constitution, reported our New Delhi correspondent.

The bench held Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with the offence of adultery, as unconstitutional.

The law, first brought in under British colonial rule in 1860, prescribed that any man who slept with a married woman without her husband's permission had committed adultery, a crime carrying a five-year prison term in the conservative country.

"Adultery cannot and should not be a crime. It can be a ground for a civil offence, a ground for divorce," Justice Misra said while reading out the judgment.

Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code says "whoever has sexual intercourse with a person who is and whom he knows or has reason to believe to be the wife of another man, without the consent or connivance of that man, such sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape, is guilty of the offence of adultery."

A petitioner, an Indian businessman, had challenged the court to strike down the law, describing it as arbitrary and discriminatory against women.

"Thinking of adultery from a point of view of criminality is a retrograde step," unanimsously declared the five-judge bench of the Supreme Court.

Women could not file a complaint under the archaic law nor be held liable for adultery themselves, making it solely the realm of men.

The court said it deprived women of dignity and individual choice and "gives license to the husband to use women as a chattel".

"It disregards the sexual

autonomy which every woman possesses and denies agency to a woman in a matrimonial tie," said Supreme Court Justice DY Chandrachud.

"She is subjugated to the will of her spouse."

Government lawyers argued that adultery should remain a crime as it threatens the institution of marriage, and caused harm to children and families, reported AFP.

But in its ruling, the court said extramarital affairs -- while still a valid ground for divorce -- were a private matter between adults.

Adultery might not be cause of unhappy marriage, it could be result of an unhappy marriage, Justice Misra observed.

Prashant Bhushan, a lawyer in the Supreme Court, said the watershed decisions on gay sex and adultery had shown the judges' "adherence to liberal values and the constitution".

"Another fine judgement by the SC," he tweeted after yesterday's ruling.

Congress lawmaker and president of women's wing of the party Sushmita Dev agreed with him. "Excellent decision to decriminalise adultery. Also a law that does not give women the right to sue her adulterer husband and can't be herself sued if she is in adultery is unequal treatment & militates against her status as an individual separate entity."

National Commission of Women chief Rekha Sharma, too, welcomed the judgement and said it should have been removed long time ago.

In 1954, the court upheld adultery as a crime arguing "it is commonly accepted that it is the man who is the seducer, and not the woman".

But in their ruling yesterday, the judges said this narrative no longer applied, noting also that Britain did away with its own laws penalising adultery long ago.

"Man being the seducer and women being the victim no longer exists. Equality is the governing principle of a system. Husband is not the master of the wife," the verdict added.



A colourful boat race titled 'Sheikh Russel Gold Cup Nouka Baich' was held on Wednesday on the Gorai river in Magura's Sreepur upazila. Nine boats from Magura, Kushtia, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Faridpur took part in the competition.

PHOTO: STAR



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Vacancy Announcement (Re-advertisement)

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), an apex development organization was established by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in 1990 for sustainable poverty reduction through employment generation. Since its inception, PKSF has been implementing various poverty alleviation programs and projects through its Partner Organizations (POs) all over the country.

PKSF is going to implement a Government approved project titled 'Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP)', financed by the World Bank. The project development objective is to increase adoption of environmentally sustainable practices by targeted microenterprises following business cluster development approach.

PKSF hereby invites applications from the suitable candidates for the following positions under the SEP project:

| Sl. | Name of the Posts with number | Consolidated Salary (BDT) |
|-----|--|---------------------------|
| 1 | Senior Program Officer (ICT Specialist)-01 | 1,20,000/- |
| 2 | Senior Program Officer (Branding, E-commerce and Innovation Specialist)-01 | 1,20,000/- |
| 3 | Program Officer (Value Chain Development)-01 | 90,000/- |
| 4 | Program Officer (Training and Community Development) -01 | 90,000/- |
| 5 | Program Officer (Social Safeguard - SMF & TPF) -01 | 90,000/- |
| 6 | Program Officer (Monitoring and Evaluation - GIS) -01 | 90,000/- |
| 7 | Program Officer (Monitoring and Evaluation - RBM & MIS) -01 | 90,000/- |
| 8 | Program Officer (Infrastructure Engineering) -01 | 90,000/- |
| 9 | Program Officer (Finance and Audit) -01 | 90,000/- |
| 10 | Program Officer (Enterprise Development- Textile and Fashion) -01 | 90,000/- |
| 11 | Program Officer (Enterprise Development- Leather Engineering) -01 | 90,000/- |
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| 18 | Assistant Program Officer (Administration and Procurement) -01 | 70,000/- |
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| 20 | Assistant Program Officer (Accounts and Finance) -01 | 70,000/- |
| 21 | Assistant Officer (Computer Operator) -01 | 50,000/- |
| 22 | Assistant Officer (Public Relation Officer) -01 | 50,000/- |

The candidates will be recruited for the project period on contractual basis. For detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and other instructions for each post please visit PKSF's website: www.pksf-bd.org/e_recruitment. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should apply online through www.bdjobs.com by 14 October 2018. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. PKSF highly discourages any kind of persuasion. PKSF reserves the right to cancel advertisement without showing any reason whatsoever.

Deputy Managing Director

Missing driver found killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The body of an auto-rickshaw driver was recovered from Alokdiar village in Santhia upazila yesterday, three days after he went missing.

The victim Maruf Hossain, 42, son of late Moslem Uddin of Kalachandpara village in Sadar upazila, went missing from his house on Monday. His family members filed a general diary with Sadar Police Station the same day.

Locals found a bag with a body stuffed in it under the bridge at Alokdiar village and informed the police, who recovered the decomposed body from the spot.

Later, family members of the victim went to the spot and identified the deceased, said Ataikula Police Station Officer-in-Charge Masud Rana.

Criminals killed him, put the body in a bag and dumped it in Alokdiar village, the OC said, adding that the reason behind the murder could not be known as of filing of this report at 4:00pm on Thursday.

The body was sent to Pabna Medical College Hospital for autopsy, he added.

Locals found a bag with Maruf Hossain's body stuffed in it under a bridge.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয় : 'বঙ্গবন্ধু জাতীয় কৃষি পুরস্কার ১৪২৪' এর মনোনয়ন আহ্বান
বঙ্গবন্ধু জাতীয় কৃষি পুরস্কার ট্রাস্ট এর ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের ৪র্থ সভার সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী 'বঙ্গবন্ধু জাতীয় কৃষি পুরস্কার ১৪২৪' প্রদানের নিমিত্ত মনোনয়নপত্র আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

মনোনয়নপত্র দাখিল ও বাছাইয়ের তফসিল নিম্নরূপ-

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| উপজেলা কমিটির দিকট মনোনয়ন ফরম দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ | ২৫ অক্টোবর ২০১৮ |
| উপজেলা কমিটি কর্তৃক মনোনয়ন বাছাইয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ | ০৬ নভেম্বর ২০১৮ |
| জেলা কমিটি কর্তৃক মনোনয়ন বাছাইয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ | ১৪ নভেম্বর ২০১৮ |
| কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়ে মনোনয়ন দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ | ২০ নভেম্বর ২০১৮ |

'বঙ্গবন্ধু জাতীয় কৃষি পুরস্কার ১৪২৪' এর মনোনয়ন ফরম ও নিয়মাবলি কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট www.moa.gov.bd; কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট www.dae.gov.bd; কৃষি তথ্য সার্ভিসের ওয়েবসাইট www.ais.gov.bd; সকল জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় এবং সকল উপপরিচালক, কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তরের কার্যালয়ে পাওয়া যাবে।

প্রচারে :

কৃষি তথ্য সার্ভিস কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়