



Rising level of water in the Monu river has been damaging different parts of its embankment in Moulvibazar. The photos were taken from in Moulvibazar 's Kulaura upazila yesterday.



PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Monu embankment under threat, needs immediate repair

Breaching at two points, 65 other locations also at risk in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

A vast tract of land is under threat of being flooded by the Monu river during this rainy season as its embankment in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila has started to breach at two locations and 65 other locations remain vulnerable.

The most vulnerable locations spotted on the embankment are at Chatigaon, Uttar-Chati, Kakirchak, Uzirpur, Kanjirpur, Ekamodhu, Adinabad, Swashmohol, Kalaikuna, Bholanagar, Premnagar and Khas-premnagar villages under Rajnagar upazila; Chatlapur, Nishchintopur, Sultanpur, Ronchap, Madanagar, Hasimpur, Belertol, Kolirkuna, Rajapur, Ashroygram,

Kotarkuna, Jalalpur, Khondakargram, Tajpur, Miarpura, Sondrabaz and Balia villages under Kulaura upazila and Noarai, Chandpur and Basudebsri villages under Sadar upazila.

Despite drawing attention to local office of Water Development Board (WDB) a number of times, no repair work was conducted as yet, alleged locals.

Porimol Chandra Dey, president of Kawkabon Bazar Samity in Kulaura upazila, said at least 36 shops were completely damaged last year when about 50 feet of the embankment was inundated by the river.

The erosion caused damage worth of crores of taka, but the WDB still did

not conduct any repair work on the embankment, he added.

Abdul Basit Bachchu, chairman of Hazipur union in Kulaura upazila, said the embankment already started to collapse at Kawkabon and Chakronchap points.

Munem Miah, a resident of Kawkabon village, said, "We are at the risk being flooded by the Monu. Heavy rains upstream in the last couple of days may trigger flash floods in the area."

Bimol Sutradhar of Ekamodhu village in Rajnagar upazila said when WDB officials inspected the embankment in the area a few months back, they told locals that they would start repair work after getting funds from the government.

Nowab Ali Bakhor Khan, chairman of Prithimpasa union in Kulaura upazila, said the embankment might be washed away if the water level in the Monu rises during this rainy season.

Meanwhile, Ronendro Sankar Chakrabarty, executive engineer of WDB in Moulvibazar, said during their survey conducted in the past 20 years, they marked 67 vulnerable points on both banks of the Monu embankment and the embankment collapsed at those points various times during the same period.

The official also said they sought Tk 1,300 for the repair and reconstruction of the embankment, but they were yet to receive any allocation of funds.

KILLINGS, ABDUCTIONS

Hills people gripped by fear

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

A climate of fear and intimidation gripped the indigenous communities living in the hills of Bandarban and surrounding areas after five people were murdered and one abducted in Bandarban and Rangamati in three weeks' time.

Male members of the communities in Bandarban Sadar upazila's Rajbila and Kuhlalong unions are now staying elsewhere, said locals and public representatives.

Sanu Pru Marma, chairman of Kuhlalong union, said, "Following the recent gruesome murders and abductions in the area, male residents of my union are not staying in their Paras after the sunset."

Most male villagers of Rajbila union are also taking the same precaution over the last couple of days, said Kya Aung Pru Marma, chairman of the union.

"We have been passing sleepless nights due to threats issued by criminals," said U Cha Mong Marma, whose nephew was murdered after abduction in Rajbila on Sunday.

On May 7, a member of Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samity (PCJSS) was shot dead, while another PCJSS man, Puladon Tongchangya, 40, was abducted from Rajbila union of Bandarban Sadar upazila.

Only two days later, on May 9, another PCJSS supporter was shot dead by a group of armed assailants in Bakichhara rubber garden area of the same upazila.

On May 19, a local Awami League (AL) leader's brother was shot dead in Rajbila, while a local leader of Jubo League was shot dead in his house in Rajasthali upazila of neighbouring Rangamati district.

On May 25, the body of former vice president of AL's Bandarban town unit Chaw Thowai Mong Marma, 53, was found in a hilly remote area of Kuhlalong union in Bandarban Sadar upazila.

Chaw Thowai, also a former commissioner of Ward 5 in Bandarban town, was allegedly abducted from his farmhouse on the night of May 22.

Locals requesting anonymity said criminals come, mostly after sunset, with heavy weapons and threaten them.

Since the 11th parliamentary elections, some AL men, assisted by some law enforcers, have been sheltering the criminals to ruin harmony in the region, claimed Uchow Mong Marma, PCJSS Bandarban unit's president.

AL's Bandarban unit President Kwe Shwe Hla claimed that an armed group of PCJSS is behind the killings of ruling party men in the area.

Zakir Hossain Majumder, SP in Bandarban, said they were conducting investigations to identify the killers and their motives.

Two temporary camps of Bangladesh Army have been set up in Rajbila and Kuhlalong unions to bring the situation under control, said Brig Gen Khandaker Md Shahidul Emran, commander of Bangladesh Army's Bandarban region.

Shahidul Islam, OC of Bandarban Sadar Police Station, said last night they arrested KS Mong Marma, joint organising secretary of PCJSS central unit; and Kyawba Marma, secretary of PCJSS Bandarban unit -- in connection with the murder of AL leader Chaw Thowai.

ACC arrests BRTA broker at exam centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) detained a 'broker' of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) from Khagrachhari Technical School and College where BRTA conducted written exams for driving license yesterday morning.

The arrestee, Shohel Chakma was handed over to the police.

Nasir Uddin Ahmed, deputy director of Rangamati Integrated Office of ACC, led the drive.

Earlier, the ACC team went to BRTA's Khagrachhari office but found the office locked.

Then the ACC team went to the examination centre.

The ACC drive followed allegations of harassment for getting driving license from the Khagrachhari BRTA office.

Man to die for murder

Four others get life term in the case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to death and four others to life term imprisonment for killing a youth in the city in 2010.

The death penalty awardee is Habib Mia, 34, son of Kamal Mia of the city's Akua Madrasa Market area while the lifers are Swapna Begum, 50, of RK Mission Road and Jibon, 29, Sabbir alias Md Sabbir, 31, and Sharif alias Shiru, 39, of Akua area in the city. Of the convicts, Habib and Jibon were tried in absentia

Additional Sessions Judge Mohammad Nurul Amin Biplob also fiend the lifers Tk 10,000 each, in default, they are to suffer another one year in jail.

According to the prosecution, Md Parvez alias Rubel, 25, was hacked to death over a trifle matter in the city on February 10 in 2010.

Later, the victim's mother Selina Akter lodged a case with Kotwali Police Station, accusing six persons.

After investigation, police pressed a charge sheet against the six on June 22 the same year. Sarwar alias Md Sarwar, another accused in the case, died during the trial.

After examining witnesses and evidences, the court found the five guilty and pronounced the verdict.



A large snake gets trapped in a fishing net in Keolar Haor in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar yesterday. Inset, officials arrange burning of current nets seized at Dhupatila in the haor area the same day as the illegal nets cause harm to the fish stock as well as other aquatic creatures.

PHOTO: STAR

Eight lakh fish fry poisoned to death in Pirojpur



A man collects dead fish fry from a pond at Dakkhin Gulishakhali village in Pirojpur's Mathbaria upazila yesterday. Left, dead fish fry found floating in the water.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Miscreants poisoned around eight lakh fish fry to death in a pond at Dakkhin Gulishakhali village in Mathbaria upazila of the district early yesterday.

Md Mantu Talukder of the village is the owner of the pond.

The victim's son Md Shahin Howlader said they collect different kinds of fish fry like carp from a hatchery in Jashore and then release those in the pond for a few months.

Later, they sell the fish locally after taking good care, he said.

"Around two and a half months ago, we released eight lakh fish fry worth Tk 3 lakh in our pond," Shahin said, adding that he went to the pond early in the morning and found that the dead fish fry were floating in the water.

"Some villagers were unhappy as we did not sell fish fry to them on credit," said Shahin, adding that as the villagers got angry, they might have poisoned the fish fries to death in the pond.

On information, Mathbaria police rushed to the spot and asked them to file written complaint, said Shahin.

No case was filed in this regard as of filing of this report around 9:00pm yesterday.

Man kills brother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A youth was killed allegedly by his younger brother in Indurkani upazila of the district on Monday night.

The deceased, Forkan Howlader, 30, son of Abdus Salam Howlader, was a resident of Sayeedkhali village in the upazila.

Mohammad Mamun Ur Rashid, a cousin of the deceased, said Forkan's younger brother Solayman Howlader has been suffering from mental depression for the last four months.

Around 10:00pm, when Forkan was asleep Solayman hit him on the head with a stick, leaving him critically injured.

Family members took Forkan to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Police detained Solayman from the village yesterday morning, OC of Indurkani Police Station Habibur Rahman said, adding that deceased elder brother Shahin Howlader filed a murder case with the police station yesterday accusing Solayman.

Wife beater gets brutal vengeance from in-laws

Wife, mother-in-law among 3 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police rescued a chained and tortured youth from his in-laws' house and arrested his wife, mother-in-law and maternal uncle on Monday night.

The youth, Sohrab Hossain, 30, son of Abdul Hamid of Shaymkur village of Moheshpur upazila in Jhenidah, got the brutal treatment apparently in retribution to slapping of his wife over a trivial matter a few days ago.

Sohrab married Nila Khatun, daughter of Harez Uddin and Meherjan, seven years ago. They have a four-year-old daughter.

After the incident of slapping, aggrieved Nila with her daughter went to her parents' house at Helipadpara of Chuadanga's Jibonnagar upazila on May 22 and told her family members of the matter.

Sohrab went to his in-law's house on Sunday evening with some Eid gifts for his wife and daughter Laboni.

After sometime, Sohrab's mother-in-law asked him to leave the house, saying that he tortured Nila.

"As I protested, the relatives of Nila started beating me. They chained me to a tree and kept me there for 22 hours until police rescued me.

"They slapped and punched me repeatedly. During the long time, they gave me only water, but no food," Sohrab told the journalists after police rescued him from there at about 9:00pm on Monday.

"After seeing picture of chained Sohrab on social media we went there at about 9:00pm and rescued him. Police arrested Sohrab's mother-in-law Meherjan, wife Nila Khatun and Nila's maternal uncle Moslem Uddin from the spot. Sohrab filed a case against the three," said Goni Mia, officer-in-charge of Jibonnagar Police Station.

Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Chuadanga sent the three arrestees to jail after police produced them before the court yesterday.