

A LIFE MARKED BY DISPLACEMENT

Jamuna's lifelong struggle with erosion, cyclone

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

In many ways, Jamuna Mondal's life has been shaped by river erosion and climate change.

When the 75-year-old married Sridhar Mondal at a tender age around sixty years ago, she became part of a well-to-do family. After half-a-century of upheavals, she now finds herself and her 10-member family towing the lines of destitution.

"I have faced at least 10 separate instances of forced displacement from my homestead," Jamuna said while netting shrimp fry from Shakbaria river, amid the high tide and storm of cyclone Yaas on Wednesday noon.

On the day, the weather didn't even favour going out, let alone fish in the river. But the widowed septuagenarian simply does not have an option.

Her two sons Haripada Mondal and Nirapada were also netting shrimp with their aged mother when this correspondent spoke to them near their residence at Borobari village under Koyra upazila.

Once a self-sustaining family, the relentless uprooting means the family now has to buy everything from the market, and there's only one resource they can rely on to make the money.

"We have no alternative but to fish for a living," Jamuna said. "Where we used to

grow our grains and crops is lost to river erosion and tidal surge."

Around a decade ago, the family lived right beside the Shakbaria river. "But when Aila came, it took everything from us," a melancholic Jamuna said.

But the misfortunes showed no signs of stopping. "Then a year ago, Amphan took away whatever we had built up since Aila. We're basically destitute now," she said.

All of these must have been traumatic for the family, but it struck this correspondent as odd that the family was out fishing on the eve of another cyclone. "Don't you fear this cyclone?" he asked.

"We've travelled so deep into fear that I don't feel it anymore," Jamuna replied, with a mirthless smile.

Jamuna ended up netting 178 shrimp fry for the day, while her son Haripada caught another 280. They took the haul to nearby Kasaribari Bazar and sorted them together. Jamuna sold hers for Tk 162.

"This is what life is like right now. We don't know what our destiny is, we don't know where we're headed," Jamuna said while her eyes veered off elsewhere.

Over the next day, their destiny manifested in another round of tragedy. After the cyclone hit, the embankment at Shakbaria river broke, submerging 34 villages in Koyra upazila alone.



Braving the cyclone, Jamuna managed to catch 178 shrimp fry, while her son Haripada caught 280. She sold hers at the nearby Kasaribari Bazar for a meagre Tk 162. That one has to risk their life to earn such paltry sums bears testament to the level of poverty they live in.

PHOTO: STAR

Six carjackers

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While addressing a briefing at DMP media centre yesterday, the DB chief said Habib was arrested in a car snatching case earlier. He was released on bail and got involved in carjacking again.

Habib used to drive the stolen microbus in Chandina bus stand area of Cumilla, said police.

He sold the vehicle to Mizan for Tk 1.30 lakh, who made fake number plates and papers and sold it.

Members of the gang used SIM cards registered to others' name to avoid surveillance, he said.

During preliminary interrogation, the gang members said they mostly sold the stolen vehicles in Sylhet as many expatriates used to visit the district, he said.

These expatriates wanted to buy vehicles at low prices and the gang members took advantage of that, said the DB chief.

পুট বিক্রয়

উত্তরা তৃতীয় গ্রুপের সেক্টর ১৭/বি ব্লক ৩ কাতা ৬০৪৬০০ কনীর, প্রতিকাতা ৯৫ লাখ ও ৬০৪৬০০ কনীর, প্রতিকাতা ৯০ লাখ ও ৬০৪৬০০ কনীর, প্রতিকাতা ১০০৪৬০০ কনীর, প্রতিকাতা ১ কোটি ২০ লাখ। যোগাযোগ: ০১৯১১০১৭০৪৫, ০১৭৫৭১১২২৫৫

Experts urge

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think about a sustainable method."

"During construction of a building using traditional materials and technology, people do not consider the excessive use of energy and water, or the negative impact on the environment," he said.

The application of green technology for construction would save energy, water and the environment, he opined.

He suggested redesigning the textbook curriculum to popularise green technology among the new generations.

AFM Saiful Amin, professor civil engineering at Buet, urged the government to promote green construction to save public money spent on pollution control.

"The government has been spending billions of taka to control environmental pollution. If green construction can be promoted and ensured, the government will be able to save huge amounts of funds created to control pollution," he said.

He called upon the government to

give incentives to companies or projects that promote as well as use eco-friendly construction materials.

Md Abu Sadeque, executive director of Centre for Housing and Building Research, recommended the use of alternative bricks, as brick kilns are responsible for huge carbon emission.

Quoting a survey of the Department of Environment, he said, "Brick kilns are responsible for 58 percent of air pollution, and the social cost of manufacturing a concrete block is Tk 44, whereas it is Tk 60 for a brick."

Saying that use of concrete and hollow blocks reduces the use of rods, cement and other construction materials, he said, "We can produce high quality stone blocks by processing river sand. Many countries have adopted this technology."

Tanjim Ferdous, national consultant of Communication and Campaign Management, United Nations, moderated the webinar.

We need

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The foreign minister made the remarks while virtually inaugurating a two-day "Climate Camp 2021" organised by a local non-government organisation named Earth Society, marking World Environment Day.

British High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson, convener of the Climate Parliament Bangladesh Nahim Razzag MP, special envoy of CVF Presidency of Bangladesh Abul Kalam Azad, resident representative, UNDP, Bangladesh Sudipto Mukerjee and Country Lead European

Climate Foundation Monower Mostafa also spoke at the inaugural session.

Noting that the Bangladesh government is doing its best to tackle the climate challenges, the foreign minister said the national parliament declared it a "Planetary Emergency".

Bangladesh is a victim of effects of global pollution without being a polluter, Momen said, adding that every year Bangladesh is spending about 5 billion dollars, an average 2.5 percent of its GDP, on climate adaptation and resilience-building.

Work progress

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by celebrated architect Rohani Baharin who has a number of major airport terminals in his portfolio.

The three-storied terminal building, which will be 2.30 lakh square metres, will be built by Mitsubishi and Fujita of Japan and Samsung of Korea.

The estimated cost of the terminal stands at Tk 20,598 crore. Seventy percent of the funding is coming from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

Around two crore passengers will be able to use the HSHA following construction of the third terminal. In its current form, HSHA can handle eight million passengers a year. But the number of passengers is expected to reach 14 million by 2025 and 24.8 million by 2035, so the timing of Terminal 3 could not be more crucial.

Around 130 domestic and international flights -- including 26 foreign airlines' -- carrying 25,000-30,000 passengers used the HSHA every day before Covid-19 hit the country in March 2020.

Reform

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but their livelihood expenditure increased. However, there is no plan or strategy to address that," he said.

The government should withdraw or lessen the pressure of vat from the daily essentials considering their situation, he added.

Campaign for Good Governance Chairperson Abdul Awal said the budget plan and development plan are not reaching to the ultra-poor properly.

"In the budget, the rich involved with money laundering and tax evasion usually get the benefit. Therefore, steps should be taken to stop tax evasion first," he added.

Equity BD chief moderator Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said this proposed budget does not specifically say anything about steps against money laundering.

"If money laundering could be stopped, it could have been one of the sources to collect revenue," Rezaul Karim added.

Syed Aminul Haque of Coast Trust and Coastal Livelihood and Environment Action Network chief facilitator Mehedi Hasan also spoke at the event.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Fourth death anniv of Justice Latifur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fourth death anniversary of former Chief Justice Latifur Rahman, who led the 2001 caretaker government.

To mark the day, family members organised a doa and milad mehil and distributed food across orphanages in his village at Jashore.

Born in Jashore in 1936, Latifur completed his LLB in Law from Dhaka University in 1956, before getting membership at the Dhaka High Court in 1960.

He took oath as a permanent judge in 1981 and later became an Appellate Division judge in 1991. He went on to become the chief justice on January 1, 2001, before going on retirement on February 28 of the same year.

On July 2001, he took oath as chief of the caretaker government and carried out the duty till October.

An author by the side, he wrote a book titled "Tottabadhayak Sarkarer Dingulo O Amar Katha" (The Days of Caretaker Government and My Words).



Women play critical roles in food security: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women play critical roles in ensuring food security and proper nutrition of families. But despite their contribution, women are common victims to malnutrition, unhealthy food consumption, and lack of accessibility to necessary healthcare services, experts at a virtual dialogue said on Thursday

It is therefore essential to recognise the position and challenges of women and formulate action plans to ensure a sustainable and inclusive food system for society, said a press release.

The event was organised by CARE Bangladesh in association with Brac, UNFPA, UN Women, and Wave Foundation.

The event was attended by government officials, development practitioners, academicians, experts, and media professionals.

Speakers at the session stressed on the

importance of women's access to agricultural input and services, ownership, and control over assets and products to improve the current status of women in the food system.

In his welcome remarks, Ramesh Singh, country director of CARE Bangladesh, noted that more than 90 percent of family farms are dependent on their family members' labour -- both men and women.

Khaja Abdul Hannan, additional secretary of the food ministry, said, "The government has undertaken policies and programmes to ensure food and income security to women."

AKM Monirul Alam, director at the Department of Agricultural Extension; Dr Nazneen Ahmed, senior research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS); and Dr Mohammad Mainul Islam, faculty of population sciences at Dhaka University also attended the discussion as key speakers.

Affordable

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middle and middle-class people, it became an apartment project for the upper class."

The government will have to take up housing projects that will be affordable for all, and flats will have to be constructed in different sizes. Although authorities are constructing some housing projects for the lower-income people, it's not enough when compared to the demand, he added.

Contacted, Ujjwal Mallick, chief engineer of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk), said three types of flats will be constructed in the Purbachal apartment project for limited-, middle- and high-income people.

The size of flats will be from 1,500 to 3,500 square feet. Besides, 400-500 square feet flats will also be constructed for low-income people. All buildings will be between 20-storey and 30-storey high, he said.

Habib recommended the government create land banks instead of constructing apartments, and provide flats through a competitive management system, involving private developers, so that people can get apartments in different categories at affordable prices.

In rural areas, the government will have to provide loans at low interest, so people can construct buildings by their own, taking land from the land bank, he said.

Lack of land bank is the main crisis, and the government can solve this issue, he said. When someone builds their own house, they will get ownership and be able to maintain construction quality at an affordable cost.

Suggesting authorities should intervene in the land sector, Adil said the government should have taken initiatives to increase its land supply.

"Our housing policy mentions ensuring social housing. In developed countries, there are many such projects. The government does not have the capacity to start a social housing project in a larger scale, but they can do it through a private-public partnership model," he said.

Also, authorities will have to take steps

to curb the monopoly of big housing companies, which are hiking the price of plots. They should also limit ownership capacity of such housing companies, so that they cannot take ownership of huge amounts of land, he added.

Besides, authorities will have to take initiative for housing projects outside Dhaka, Adil said. Instead of initiating projects in only a few major cities, such housing plans should be taken in all the district cities.

"The government is taking up mega projects, but it will have to prioritise projects that are building housing for the poor, who are affected by natural disasters," he added.

Both Habib and Adil criticised the quality of government-constructed flats.

Habib said many buildings are being made across the country under the government's initiative, but their quality is not up to mark.

Adil said the Ashrayan project is a good initiative, but poor quality of the buildings should be looked into.

To modernise major cities of the country and ensure their planned growth, master plans of various duration are being prepared, Mustafa Kamal said. For example, the preparation of Detailed Area Plan by Rajuk for the period of 2016-2035, and of Chattogram Metropolitan Master Plan by Chattogram Development Authority for the period of 2020-2041 are underway.

Similar master plans will be prepared for other major cities, the minister said in his budget speech.

Following directives of the prime minister, the government is formulating and implementing projects to increase housing facilities of government officials and employees, from 8 percent of facilities to 40 percent, he said.

Rajuk has so far constructed 6,636 apartments in 379 high-rise buildings in Uttara Sector-18 and 380 apartments in nine high-rises on abandoned lands in Gulshan, Dhanmondi, Lalmatia and Mohammadpur, said officials.

Notice for AGM

It is for kind notice of all members of Bangladesh Endocrine Society (BES) that a special Annual General Meeting (AGM) is going to be held on 11th June, 2021 at 5pm on virtual platform via Zoom. All members of BES are requested to be present in AGM. The meeting link will be sent to all from BES office soon.

Prof Md Faruque Pathan
President, BES

Prof Md Hafizur Rahman
General Secretary, BES

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Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are invited from bona-fide contractors/manufacturers/dealers/distributors/suppliers for supply of the following items. The detail Specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

SL No.	Name of the Items	Quantity	Schedule Price (Non-refundable)
1	Electronic Door Lock	01 Lot	Tk.5000
2	80 TR Air Handling Unit	02 Set	Tk.3000
3	Vacuum Dry Machine	01 No	Tk.1000
4	50 TR AHU Cooling Coil	01 Set	Tk.1000
5	Display Chiller (Re-tender)	01 No	Tk.1000
6	Replacement of PFI unit including accessories (Re-tender)	01 No	Tk.1000
7	Well Pump Motor (Re-tender)	01 No	Tk.1000
8	Fan Coil Unit (Re-tender)	04 Nos	Tk.1000

Interested bidders may obtain Tender Schedule from the Purchasing Department on submission of a letter on their respective letterhead up to **June 28, 2021** during office hours. Tender will be received up to **02:30 pm on June 29, 2021** and will be opened on the same day at **03:00 pm** in presence of bidders, if any.

Tender must be supported by a fixed earnest money (as mentioned in the tender schedule) for SL No. 01 and 5% of quoted price for SL No. 2 to 8 in the form of Bank Draft / Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favor of Sonargaon Hotel.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in part or in full or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Purchase Manager, Tel (880) 2 9128008, Extn: 4164

Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

Khulshi, Chattogram-4225

Memo No. CVASU/OCE/REV/Goods/Works/IFT-21

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of goods as follows:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Package name	Tender closing date	Tender notice publication date
584920	OCE/Rev/PRTC/PGD-14/20-21	Procurement of Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometer/Mass Spectrometer (LC-MS/MS) for the PRTC of CVASU.	04-Jul-2021 15:00	06-Jun-2021 16:00
584943	OCE/Rev/PRTC/PGD-15/20-21	Procurement of Supporting Equipment for Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometer/Mass Spectrometer (LC-MS/MS) for the PRTC of CVASU.	04-Jul-2021 15:30	

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for **last downloading** the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date & time (**04-Jul-2021 12:30 for Tender ID 584920, 584943**).

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

**Sd-
Chief Engineer**
Office of the Chief Engineer
Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

GD-1137