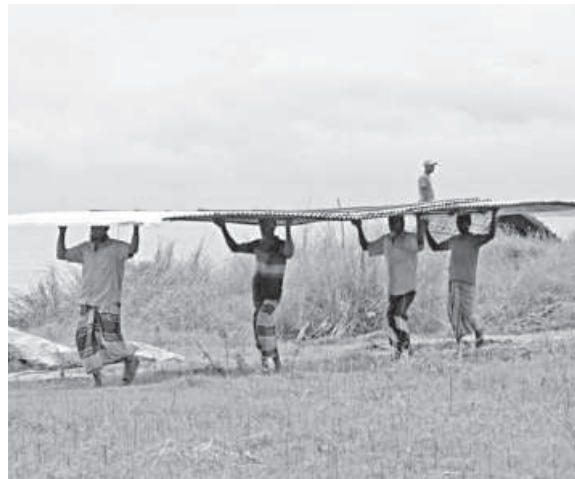




Geo bags are being deployed onto the banks of the eroding Padma in Faridpur. The woes of locals began on June 26 when the river first engulfed a significant number of houses and agricultural lands, leaving many with nothing left to salvage.

PHOTO: STAR



Saving whatever that is left

Padma erosion devours 100 homesteads, 10 acres of crop land in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Erosion by the Padma river has engulfed over 100 homesteads and 10 acres of cropland in Faridpur sadar upazila over a period of 10 days.

The erosion has occurred in the Yusuf Matbarer Dangi area, located within the Sadar upazila.

According to local sources, the erosion began on June 26, when villagers lost 10 acres of crop land. The erosion has affected a stretch of two kilometres along the riverbank.

Several establishments, such as Char Tepurakandi Government Primary School, the Union Community Clinic, and Yusuf Matubbar's Dangi Jame Masjid, along with more than 150 families, are now under immediate threat from the river erosion.

These structures currently stand a mere 120 metres away from the eroded area.

The Water Development Board has started deploying geo sand bags to mitigate the erosion.

During a visit to the region, this correspondent observed that the river erosion is ongoing, starting from the residence of Kalam Sheikh in Yusuf Matubbar's Dangi village and extending to the house of Qaimuddin Mulla within the same village.

Approximately 350-400 metres of the riverbank has already eroded.

Lalon Sheikh, a 45-year-old farmer from Yusuf

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Trace missing Badal Krishna

Family urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of Badal Krishna Biswas, a sub-registrar from Kaliganj upazila of Satkhira, sought assistance of the government in tracing his whereabouts.

Biswas has been missing since April 20 when he disappeared from Karla village in Wazirpur upazila of Barishal. He had gone there during the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays.

His family and local residents organised a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in this regard yesterday.

The family alleged that despite the passage of time, law enforcement agencies have been unable to locate Biswas. They demanded intervention of the prime minister in the matter.

Jotsna Rani Sarkar, Biswas' wife, spoke during the human chain, recounting the events leading up to his disappearance.

She said, "A complaint was lodged with police, and efforts were made by cops and Rab to locate him. However, our attempts thus far have yielded no results."

The rally was attended by Badal's uncle Nani Gopal Biswas, two sons Ankon Biswas and Ankit Biswas, and two brothers Ramoni Ranjan Biswas and Khokon Chandra Biswas. Harsit Bala, a former professor of Dhaka College, demanded safe return of Badal.

Bridge lies useless for six years

Haor locals left stranded as approach road awaits repair

MINTU DESHWARA

The primary objective behind constructing the bridge was to alleviate the difficulties faced by students commuting to school, improve transportation of haor crops, and end the sufferings of residents.

However, instead of mitigating the hardships, the bridge's construction seemed to have exacerbated them. The main issue lies in the fact that although the bridge was built, the connecting road was neglected, leading to continued challenges for the villagers for the last six years.

This is the condition of the bridge built over the haor in Satgaon Paschim Hati, a village in Badalpur of Ajmiriganj upazila in Habiganj.

Despite claims by the upazila project implementation officer that efforts are made each year to construct the road by dumping soil, the recurring monsoon floods consistently wash away these temporary measures.

The lack of a satisfactory explanation as to why the work is not completed before the monsoon further strengthens the locals' allegations that the authorities concerned are not taking the construction of the approach road seriously.

The Badlapur union, where Satgaon Uttar Hati village is situated, shares its border with the Kalni Kushiara river. This geographical feature has created a significant distance between the village and Badalpur Bazar, as the river is in between and that makes accessibility a major concern for the villagers.

The construction of the bridge at a cost of around Tk 28.9 lakh in the financial year 2015-16 was intended to address this issue. However, failure to construct the connecting road has rendered the bridge inaccessible.

Upon visiting the location, this



PHOTO: STAR

correspondent witnessed the suffering caused by the lack of a proper connecting road. The only presence on the road was just some dirt next to the bridge.

The deteriorating condition of the bridge and the visible cracks at various points raise concerns that this year's flood could cause further damage.

Sunil Das, a resident of the village, said the bridge was initially constructed to alleviate the suffering of the community, but their hardships have not diminished.

The absence of roads on both sides of the bridge has rendered it non-functional, leaving villagers to endure difficulties in transporting their haor produce and students struggling to access education, he added.

Contacted, UP member Shyamal Kumar Das acknowledged that the bridge was built to benefit students and villagers. However, he

noted that even a section of the bridge was destroyed by a flood in 2020, yet no measures have been taken to repair it. He emphasised the urgent need for a collaborative effort among the government, local authorities, and community members to rectify the situation.

Ajmiriganj upazila's former Project Implementation Officer Mohammad Ali said last year, approximately Tk 80,000 worth of soil was dumped to improve the road condition, but unfortunately, it got washed away during the monsoon flood.

In response to those who claim that no work has been done for five years, he said renovation efforts have taken place to facilitate the movement of people.

On the other hand, current PIO Subodh Mondol said he recently joined the office and is unable to provide detailed information about the bridge and its current status.

Need more books on architecture

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To understand the history of Bangladesh, it is essential to have knowledge about its architectural history, said discussants at a programme yesterday.

The number of books on architecture published in Bangladesh remains limited and heavily reliant on foreign publications. As a result, students pursuing architecture are falling behind, they added.

They said this during the book launching event of "Dhaka's Tropical Expressive Architecture," authored by architect Foyez Ullah, held at a city hotel.

"This book explores architectural discourse of three decades in Dhaka, serving as a source of inspiration and motivation for students," said Foyez.

Prof Adnan Zillur Morshed underscored the book's significance in comprehending the architectural history of the previous decade. He said it will serve as an invaluable reference.



Speakers at the launching event of "Dhaka's Tropical Expressive Architecture," authored by architect Foyez Ullah.

PHOTO: STAR

"If we fail to preserve our architectural history through books, students will lose motivation," said Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam.

"Had we published such books earlier, we would have been able to showcase the rich heritage of our architecture to a global audience," Prof Manzoorul added.

Prof Mohammad Ali Naqi and Prof Shamsul Wares also spoke at the programme.

Elephant calf found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An elephant calf was found dead at Chambol Union under Banshkhalia upazila of Chattogram yesterday.

Upon information from locals, a team of the forest department went to the spot and recovered the body of the calf around 7:00am, said Anisuzzam Sheikh, ranger of the Jaldi range of the Department of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation in Chattogram.

A team of the livestock department has conducted an autopsy to determine the cause of death of the calf, aged around one and half years, he said.

"Primarily, we assumed that the elephant had died after falling from the hills. The elephant was buried in the area," he added.

The autopsy report will confirm the reason behind the animal's death, said Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, divisional forest officer.

Mentionable, the mammal is categorised

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Two siblings sent to jail over rape of speech-impaired girl

STAR REPORT

A Noakhali court yesterday sent two siblings to jail in a rape case while locals in Tangail formed a human chain demanding punishment for an alleged rapist.

The accused in the case filed in Noakhali are Abdul Malek, 26, and his elder brother Abdul Khalek, 35, from Debkala village in Begumganj upazila.

Malek was accused of raping a speech-impaired girl and Khalek for assisting his younger brother to go into hiding.

Police said the eight-year-old girl was going to a shop adjacent to his house on June 30 morning. On her way, Malek forcibly took the girl to a nearby secluded place and raped her.

The girl's father filed the case the same evening, said Mir Zahedul Haque Rony, officer-in-charge of Begumganj Model Police Station.

On Friday, police arrested Malek in Chattogram city, he said.

The two were produced before Noakhali Chief Judicial Magistrate Court that sent them to jail, said Md Shahidul Islam, superintendent of police in Noakhali.

In Tangail, locals in Basail upazila headquarters yesterday formed a human chain demanding punishment for a Chhatra League leader allegedly for raping a woman.

The accused is Shakib Miah, president of Basail Municipality unit of BCL.

Locals said Shakib raped the woman on early hours of May 15. She filed a case a day later.

Now Shakib, after receiving bail from the High

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



THE CLAY-PLAY... Three friends hug each other following a football session in a field in Pirojpur's Kuniari area. Their mud-covered faces beamed with joy as they took a small break from the game and posed for this photo yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS