

LALMONIRHAT-KURIGRAM

# Erosion takes serious turn with recession of flood water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

With flood water receding, erosion along the banks of the Teesta river in different upazilas of Lalmonirhat and Kurigram has taken a serious turn.

River erosions are going at 20 points in different shoal villages under 10 unions in five upazilas of the two districts, while it took serious turn in at least six points.

Currently, Water Development Board (WDB) is trying to check the erosion on a temporary-basis by dumping sand-

filled geo-bags at two points. that erosion is going on at different shoal villages along the Teesta river for over a week now.

At least 145 homesteads and about 500 bighas of arable land have already been devoured by the Teesta river since June 21.

his family members took shelter on a government road, Subas said, adding that at least 20 homesteads and nearly 80 bighas of cropland of the village have been devoured by the river till now.

Farmer Nazar Ali of Kholahati village

Kurigram WDB Executive Engineer Rakibul Hasan said sand-filled geo-bags are being dumped at Kalirmela village in an attempt to check the erosion temporarily.

A letter has been sent to the higher authorities, seeking fund allocation so



With flood water receding, erosion along the bank of the Teesta river has taken a serious turn. The photos were taken from Kalirmela village in Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

filled geo-bags at two points.

According to WDB officials, erosion by Teesta river is now going on in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila's Rajpur and Khuniyagach unions, Aditmari's Mahishkhochcha union and Hatibandha's Dawabari, Sindurna and Gaddimari unions, and Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila's Gharialdanga, Umar Majid and Bidiyanda unions and Ulipur's Thetrai union.

While erosions took serious turn at Rajpur, Tajpur, Kholahati and Barogharia villages in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila and Kalirmela and Burirhat villages in Rajarhat upazila of Kurigram.

While talking to chairmen of different erosion-hit Union Parishads (UPs), this correspondent came to know

Moreover, over 2,000 homesteads, many government and private establishments and several thousand bighas of cropland are under threat of being eroded by the river at any time, they said.

Erosion victim Subas Chandra Roy of Kalirmela village in Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila said his entire homestead and two bighas of arable land went into the river last week.

Finding no other alternative, he and

in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila said erosion by the Teesta has intensified with the receding water level.

About 25 families, including his, have already lost their homesteads and took shelter on government khas lands.

Rajarhat Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Khadiza Begum said relief materials, including rice and dry foods, have been distributed among the erosion affected families.

that they can provide adequate sand-bags in other erosion affected areas, the engineer said.

Contacted, Lalmonirhat WDB Executive Engineer Sunil Kumar said erosion has occurred at some places due to a recession in Teesta water level.

WDB higher officials have already visited the erosion affected areas, he said, adding that dumping of sand-filled geo-bags will be done to check erosion soon.

## Over 50,000 stranded as flood hits new areas

FROM PAGE 16  
rehabilitation officer in Kurigram, said 450 chars and low-lying riverside areas have been flooded, leaving about 50,000 locals marooned in the district.

Most residents of the affected areas have either taken shelter on boats or the WDB embankment.

"The water has been rising since yesterday afternoon. It entered our house this morning. We might have to relocate soon if the water levels keep increasing," said Mobarak Ali, a 60-year-old farmer of Char Jatrapur in Kurigram Sadar.

Contacted, Kurigram Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Saidul Arif said the district administration will provide sufficient relief materials to the flood-hit people.

Meanwhile, the water level of some rivers in the northeastern region began to recede.

The overall flood situation in various low-lying areas of the northeastern region may remain unchanged, said the FFWC bulletin.

"The Surma, Bhugai, and Kangsha rivers in the northeastern region of the country are in a falling trend, while Kushiara river is in a rising trend, which may continue in the next 24 hours."

According to the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), the Surma River, although above the danger level, marked a fall, while the Sari-Gowain River was flowing further below the danger level. However, the Kushiara, Manu, and Khowai rivers were still above the danger level and rising.

At 3:00pm, the Surma was flowing 81cm above the danger level at Sylhet's Kanaighat Point, the Sari-Gowain was flowing at 127cm below the danger level at Jaintiapur's Sarighat point.

At 6:00pm, the Kushiara was flowing 142cm above the danger

level at Amalshid point of Sylhet; the Manu was flowing 58cm below the danger level at the Railway Bridge point, while it was flowing 45cm above the danger level at Moulvibazar Sadar point; and the Khowai was flowing 45cm above the danger level at Balla Point.

Many flood-hit people said that they were facing a crisis of relief materials.

Shamsun Nahar of Rahimpur under Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila

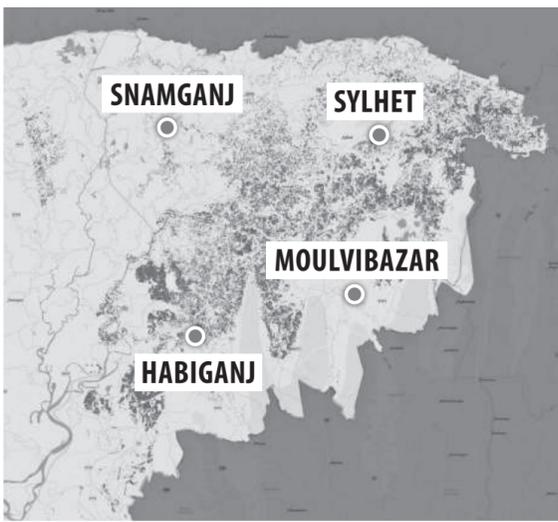
said, "The swelling Dhalai river almost destroyed my house. I sent my children to a relative's house. Otherwise, they would be starving as we have not received any relief aid yet."

Contacted, Sylhet Divisional Commissioner Abu Ahmad Siddique said the administration is working to provide sufficient relief materials to the flood-victim people.

[Our correspondents from Sylhet, Moulvibazar, and Lalmonirhat contributed to this report.]

## INUNDATED AREAS OF SYLHET DIVISION

JUNE 29, 2024



SATELLITE IMAGE SOURCE: UNOSAT 5-1 FLOODAI MONITORING DASHBOARD

## No provision for staying conviction

FROM PAGE 16  
Dhaka in the case and also asked the chairman of the Labour Appellate Tribunal to dispose of the appeals as early as possible.

The HC delivered the verdict following a criminal revision petition moved by Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan on behalf of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) against the Labour Appellate Tribunal order.

In the full text, the HC observed

that the chairman of the Labour Appellate Tribunal has not assigned any reason for staying the operation of the judgement and order passed by the chairman of the Third Labour Court of Dhaka which on January 1 this year convicted and sentenced Prof Yunus and the others to six months in prison.

"As per Section 426(l) of Code of Criminal Procedure, there is no provision for staying the conviction passed by the learned Chairman,

3rd Labour Court, Dhaka but the Chairman, Labour Appellate Court, Dhaka, contrary to law, initially at the time of admission of appeal stayed the conviction which, in our view, is against the mandate of law and is ex-facie illegality that cannot sustain in the eye of law," reads the full text.

Contacted, Yunus's lawyer Abdullah Al Mamun said his clients will move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the HC verdict.

## Anti-quota demos rage on across the country

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The demonstrations began around 2:30pm in front of Dhaka University's Central Library. They marched to the Shikha Chirantan and then to the TSC and Doyel Chattar.

The procession reached Shahbagh at 3:45pm and blocked the intersection, disrupting vehicular movement on key roads leading to Bangla Motors, Science Lab and Kakrail.

Hasib Al Islam, an organiser of the "Boishommo Birodhi Chattra Andolon" (Anti-Discrimination Students Movement), said, "The High Court recently declared the 2018 quota cancellation circular illegal. The government has filed a writ petition, and the court is set to deliver a verdict on the quota system tomorrow [today]. We're waiting for that. If the quota system is reinstated, we will wage tougher movements."

A significant number of police personnel were present at the intersection ahead of the protesters' arrival.

JU, JNU DEMOS  
Meanwhile, students of Jahangirnagar

University blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway in front of the university as part of the same protest.

Several hundred students brought out a procession from the JU Central Library around 3:00pm. They then moved towards the highway and blocked it around 3:15pm, halting vehicular movement and causing traffic congestion on both sides.

Jagannath University students also held a procession from the university premises to the Taantibazar intersection and blocked the road from there to Jatrabari, obstructing vehicles from entering the capital for about an hour.

Students from other public universities too blocked different regional highways throughout the day as part of the ongoing movement.

Barisal University students blocked the Dhaka-Patuakhali highway, while Bangladesh Agricultural University students halted train movement on the Dhaka-Mymensingh railway for an hour.

In Rangpur, students of Begum Rokeya University blocked the Dhaka-Rangpur highway.

Additionally, Chittagong University students demonstrated at their main gate and blocked the Chittagong-Khagrachari highway for about 40 minutes.

MOVEMENTS FOR QUOTA SYSTEM  
On the other hand, student platform "Muktijoddha Quota Reinstatement Movement" held a rally in front of the National Museum in Shahbagh, in support of the quota system.

They then marched to the Raju Bhashkarjo at DU, making a seven-point demand, including the enforcement of the HC verdict and the issuance of a new circular in this regard.

In Rajshahi, members of the "Muktijoddha Sontan O Projonmo" of Rajshahi University formed a human chain to defend the quotas and protest derogatory remarks about the Liberation War and families of freedom fighters.

They held up placards with messages such as "Those who made the country independent, why should they be insulted?" and "Quota system does not create discrimination but provides equality".

## BNP leader stabbed on way to rally

FROM PAGE 16  
convener Sabbirul Islam Chapal - were undergoing treatment at Natore Sadar Hospital.

The criminals also threw crude bombs at the rally around 10:00am.

Rahim Newaz, member secretary of the district BNP, said the chief guest of the rally, Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, forest and environment affairs secretary of the party's central committee, was injured in the blast. Mosaddek, who was also the former mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation,

took first aid.

Asked, Rashedul denied the allegation of his involvement in the attack.

Amirul said, "I was not involved in the attack. The incident happened due to internal feud of BNP."

Tariqul Islam, superintendent of Natore police, said BNP had a pre-scheduled programme. BNP leader Shahidul and three others were attacked by criminals on the way to the event. Police identified those involved in the attack.

"Action will be taken against the attackers if a case is filed," he said.

Police had been deployed in front of the BNP office since morning. It is being investigated whether there was any negligence on part of police. If so, they will be punished.

Shariiful Islam Ramzan, general secretary of Natore AL, said those who attacked the BNP leaders are identified criminals. None of them are members of their party or its affiliated organisations.

"So, the Awami League will not take

the responsibility of this attack. The criminals carried out the attack in front of police."

He added that the incident happened due to inaction of police. Natore AL had no political programmes yesterday.

In Patuakhali, at least five BNP activists were attacked allegedly by AL men on the way to a rally on Swanirbhar Road in the district town yesterday.

The rally was held as part of BNP's central programme.

Injured Rubel Hawlader, senior

vice-president of Swachhasebak Dal Rangabali upazila unit, took treatment at Patuakhali Medical College Hospital, while others took first aid.

Snehanshu Sarkar Kutti, member secretary of district BNP, alleged that a group of AL activists were involved in the attack.

Denying the allegation, Abdul Mannan, secretary of the district AL, said it was BNP's internal conflict.

[Our correspondents in Natore and Patuakhali contributed to this report.]

## Univ teachers likely to sit with govt

FROM PAGE 1

under the banner of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) have been refraining from work since Monday demanding reinstatement of the previous pension facilities instead of the newly introduced "Prottoy" scheme of the Universal Pension System.

FBUTA Secretary General Nizamul Haque Bhuiyan yesterday said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader spoke to them over holding a meeting this morning to discuss their demands.

"We will join the meeting, but our movement will continue," he told The Daily Star.

Teachers have been demonstrating since May 26 protesting the government decision to include all officers and employees, joining the service of autonomous, self-governing, nationalised, statutory, or similar organisations and their subordinate institutions on or after July 1, 2024, under the Prottoy pension scheme.

Teachers said that the newly recruited teachers will suffer financial loss and many people will not take up teaching at universities if the new pension scheme is introduced.

They also demanded a separate pay scale for university teachers and inclusion of professors in the pay grade equivalent to that of a senior secretary.

PROTESTS CONTINUE

Skipping classes and exams, Dhaka University teachers under the banner of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) staged demonstrations for the third straight day yesterday.

Addressing a sit-in in front of the arts faculty building, the teachers rejected the finance minister's statement and a press release from the National Pension Authority regarding the universal pension system.

Prof Zeenat Huda, general secretary of DUTA, called upon the finance minister to sit down for talks.

"Why is the finance minister avoiding discussion?" she asked.

Boycotting administrative activities, staffers under the banner of Dhaka University Karmakarta Karmachari Oikya Parishad held a sit-in in front of the administrative building.

As a result, many former and current students of the university could not collect their certificates and mark sheets yesterday.

No classes and exams were held at BUET, Rajshahi, Jahangirnagar, Chittagong, Jagannath and other universities yesterday. The university authorities either kept the transport service suspended or significantly reduced trips to and from campuses.

Meanwhile, 107 university teachers under the banner of University Teachers' Network yesterday called for scrapping of the "Prottoy" pension scheme and urged the authorities concerned to implement a separate pay scale for them.

In a statement, the teachers' platform said imposing a new pension scheme on the teachers without any discussion or consultation with the stakeholders is yet another "blatant display of the current government's arbitrary behaviour".

## We have to be prepared

FROM PAGE 16

But Tuesday's draw means Brazil will face a titanic showdown in Las Vegas on Saturday against archrivals Uruguay, winners of Group D with a perfect record.

Brazil goalscorer Raphinha insisted the five-time world champions would be unfazed at the prospect of playing Uruguay.

"Our team is evolving with each game, with each training session and we think we're on the right track," Raphinha said.