

At least 15,000 hectares of arable land waterlogged for sluice gate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A sluice gate constructed as part of a dam in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali has been unable to drain away water from at least 15,000 hectares of agricultural land, thereby causing waterlogging in monsoon.

As such, hundreds of farmers from Khaprabhanga village in Dalbuganj union under the upazila are being affected over the years as they have been unable to cultivate their lands for crop production due to inundation.

The affected farmers also formed a human chain in the area adjacent to the sluice gate recently.

They demanded the authorities concerned take prompt steps to resolve the issue.

The Bangladesh Water Development Board had constructed the sluice gate on a canal in the area as part of a polder of the dam.

However, as the sluice has been unable to drain away water from the agricultural lands during monsoon, waterlogging causes significant damage to crops including Aman paddy seedbeds every year, while also sinking fish enclosures in the area.

"The only way to drain away water from the vast arable lands is to break this small sluice gate and construct a bigger one," said Mostafizur Rahman, a local farmer.

Contacted, Rabiul Islam, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Kalapara upazila, said necessary measures will be taken in this regard.



People flood the Shibbari intersection in Khulna city, celebrating the resignation of the government yesterday. Inset, Chattogram's New Market area turned into a sea of people joining similar celebrations.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN, RAJIB RAIHAN

Boat prices rise amid flood

MINTU DESHWARA, from Habiganj

With flood still inundating vast expanse of land across the Sylhet division, including the haor (wetland) areas in Habiganj, boats have become an indispensable mode of communication as well as livelihood for the affected people.

In the backdrop of this scenario, demand for small boats and dinghies have rose in the division, followed by a hike in price of those.

Boat stalls were seen scattered across numerous locations in the Haor areas in Nabiganj, Bahubal, Baniachong, Ajmiriganj, and Lakhai upazilas of Habiganj district. Craftsmen were seen working round the clock to meet the high demand for boats, which is expected to continue for at least another month.

Habiganj is a well-known hub of boats in the region with a century-old heritage. Traders from across Sylhet division also procure boats from the district.

According to vendors, dinghies are ranging in price between Tk 4,500-8,000 depending on the quality of wood, and around 100-150 are being sold daily across

different markets in the district.

They also said the business is likely to exceed Tk 15 lakh in volume.

Nipendra Roy, a local boat maker, said, "We make boats with almost all types of wood, including jarul, karai, raintree,

from Tk 5,000 to Tk 30,000

depending on the size and type of wood used. However, even boats with a price tag of Tk 50,000 are also available in the market," he added.

However, buyers have expressed concerns about the

Haider Ali, a buyer from

Inatganj area of the district, said, "In monsoon, and during floods, boats become essential for commute and to perform tasks like cutting hyacinths for cattle. That's why I came to buy a boat."

"Our area is inundated, and a boat has become crucial for mobility and daily tasks. However, the prices have gone up, making it difficult to afford one," said Afzal Mia, another buyer from the same area.

Sellers attributed the price hike to higher costs of wood, iron, and labour.

Jhantu Das, a seller in hospital area of Nabiganj upazila, said, "The price of wood rose from Tk 250 to Tk 400 per foot, while labour wages increased from Tk 500 to Tk 800 per day. These factors have driven up the prices of boats."

"We have to balance between the higher costs of materials and wages while also being mindful of the financial strain on buyers given the current situation. However, the price did not increase much, only by Tk 200-300 for each boat. We are trying to keep profits modest," said Arun Kumar, another trader.



mango, blackberry, chambul, shimul and krishnachura. Boats made of jarul wood fetch the highest prices, while those of shimul wood are the cheapest."

"The price of each boat ranges

sudden hike in prices due to the flood-driven rise in demand for boats. Low-income families are struggling to afford a boat for their daily needs amid the ongoing situation.

PRAYER TIMING
AUGUST 6

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:20	12:45	5:00	6:47	8:15
JAMAAT 4:55	1:15	5:15	6:50	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

When will bhaiya

FROM PAGE 3
College in Mymensingh, his hometown.

His father informed The Daily Star that Shahriar had returned to Dhaka after attending five exams, as the educational institutions were closed and HSC exams were postponed amid the students' protests.

"On July 18, he went to his cousin's home in Mirpur. I was at our village home in Kumra Shashon, Iswarganj. On the day, I received a call in the evening and came to learn that he had been shot. I somehow managed to return to Dhaka facing numerous obstacles on the way, only to find my son in a

coma, before he eventually left us," Matin said.

Shahriar's mother, Momtaz Begum, has been overwhelmed by grief since his death, while his 70-year-old grandmother has fallen ill. The family is currently living in their village home and it is uncertain when they would return to Dhaka.

Matin also said it was traumatic to recount the demise of his son every time a journalist would call him over the phone.

"They did not let my son grow up. His photos and videos are our only keepsakes now. I want justice, but I don't know who we will ask to deliver it," Matin added.

We didn't have much I rushed to aid

FROM PAGE 3
injured," said his employer Md Abul Kashem, a contractor.

"His coworkers and some locals rushed him to a nearby hospital. He was later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he succumbed to the injuries around 9:30pm," he also said.

"Foyez's body was taken to his village home of Laxmipur by his uncle and relatives, where he was buried at the family graveyard on July 22," Kashem added.

His wife Noor Nahar Begum said, "My in-laws did not accept our marriage, so initially I remained at my father's house in Tongi. We started living in Narayanganj for the last seven months after Foyez found a job in the Signboard area. Foyez used to earn a daily wage of Tk 700. We were not financially solvent, but we were living happily."

"I informed Foyez around 4:00pm on the day that there was unrest in the neighbourhood, and asked him to return home by 5:00pm. Around three

hours later, I came to learn that he got shot. I rushed to the hospital and found him breathing heavily with an oxygen mask on his face. He died soon after. I could not even get a chance to have a last word with him," Nahar said.

"My husband was innocent, and yet he was killed. How am I going to raise our son now? The authorities must try his killers," she added.

Foyez's father Ala Uddin Bepari said his wife Safura Begum has taken to bed after being informed of their eldest son's demise.

Who will look

FROM PAGE 3
Tk 20,000. I am urging the authorities concerned to stand by the family," said Titu's cousin Rakib.

Titu's father, Abdur Rahim said, "When my son left for Dhaka for work, he told me that he would send us money regularly, and asked me to take care of the family. How am I going to take care of them now? I will have to pull a rickshaw again at this age..."

FROM PAGE 3
The family later took Amin's body to their home in Bharipasha village of Keshabpur union under Patuakhali's Bauphal upazila, where he was buried the next morning.

Obaidul and his wife returned to the capital for their livelihoods two days later, with their hearts broken, bleeding.

At the family's village home, Amin's 73-year-old grandmother Lovely

Begum was found sitting with a picture of her beloved grandson while tear rolled down her cheeks.

"My grandson was not part of any movement. He did not even study much and had to work at a factory to support his family. Why was he shot dead? I demand justice for my grandson," she said.

"The police shot and killed my only son. I am leaving the justice up to the Almighty," said Obaidul.



Amin's 73-year-old grandmother looks at the picture of her beloved grandson.

PHOTO: STAR

Violence sweeps country

FROM PAGE 3
in the district headquarters.

The residence of Zunaid Ahmed Palak, former minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, was also vandalised in Singra Upazila.

Besides, residences and offices of at least three other AL leaders were also vandalised.

Besides, in Narayanganj, agitated people vandalised houses and business establishments of Shamim Osman and his family members.

In Thakurgaon, residence and business establishments of lawmaker Ramesh Chandra Sen came under attack in the Sadar upazila.

Meanwhile, Chhatra League central unit president Saddam Hossain's village home was torched in Egaromile area under Atwary upazila in Panchagarh.

Panchagarh-1 lawmaker Naimuzzaman Mukta's residence was also attacked, while over a hundred houses and shops were looted and set ablaze.

In Feni, residences of lawmaker Nizam Hazari and other AL leaders, and municipal offices were attacked and vandalised.

Residence and business establishments of lawmaker Iqbalur Rahim were vandalised. Besides, Nawabganj upazila unit AL office was vandalised, and Bochaganj Police Station was torched in Dinajpur.

In Jashore, businesses and residences of AL leader Shahin Chakladar and lawmaker Nabil Ahmed were vandalised.

In Satkhira, a mob attacked and broke into the district jail, allowing many inmates to flee, while also looting different materials from the jail, said witnesses and local journalists.

In Cumilla, the residence of lawmaker AKM Bahauddin was attacked in

the district headquarters.

In Noakhali, a section of angry students and people looted furniture from the district AL office before setting it on fire yesterday afternoon. They also attacked Noakhali Press Club twice in a row.

Besides, the residence of Shihab Uddin, vice-president of district AL unit, was attacked and vandalised.

In Sherpur, a mob vandalised the main gate of deputy commissioner's residence in the Gopalbari area around 12:00pm. They also vandalised and set fire to the officers' quarters adjacent to DC's residence, while Sherpur Sadar Police Station also came under similar attacks.

In Bogura, protesters attacked Sadar Police Station and set it afire.

Numerous shops in Police Plaza were looted. District AL offices and houses of local AL leaders were vandalised.

In Savar, at least eight bullet-hit persons, and over a hundred others with pellet wounds, were brought to Enam Medical College and Hospital.

The agitators also set fire to Savar Model and Ashulia police stations, Savar Press Club, and many houses and establishments in Savar, Ashulia and Dhamrai areas, according to the fire service.

In Cox's Bazar, the local AL unit office was vandalised and set ablaze in Teknaf yesterday afternoon.

In Chandpur, Selim Khan, chairman of Laxmipur model union parishad, and his son Shanto Khan were killed in a stampede while fleeing from the locality at Bagara Bazar area yesterday afternoon, said Sheikh Mohsin Alam, officer-in-charge of Chandpur Sadar Model Police Station.

[Our correspondents from respective districts contributed to the report.]

Tarique Rahman

FROM PAGE 3
abductions. After many years, Bangladesh saw victory on August 5, 2024," the statement read.

"Numerous people were arrested and thrown into jail on false and politically motivated charges brought by the Hasina administration. I demand their immediate release and cancellation of the cases against them. Along with this, I expect quick steps to ensure that students be allowed to return to classes and take exams normally," the statement added.

"After this, 125 million voters will be able to cast their votes in a free and fair election and establish a government with

accountability."

"So, to take the revolution to the final point of success, a free and fair election must be held at the soonest; the power must be handed over to the representatives of the people. All the democratic parties of Bangladesh, including the BNP, will help establish a democratic Bangladesh free from inequality through a free and fair election.

"Dear countrymen, I want to make a sincere appeal to all. Please celebrate the victory peacefully. Please don't become vengeful. Please don't take the law into your own hands," it concluded.

Shafe wanted to go

FROM PAGE 3
"My son had a long-cherished dream to fly to England after completing a degree in marine technology, but that dream got buried with him," he added.

Md Sirajul Abedin, instructor of IMT,

Chandpur, said they came to know about Shafe's demise, but did not know any details since the institution has been closed.

"Students from the institutions had joined the anti-quota protests, but no one was injured in any incident," he added.

KHULNA SHIPYARD LIMITED
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BARB (F) - 632/2024-2025/ DATE: 01 August 2024

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

01	Procuring Entity Name	Khulna Shipyards Limited, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna		
02	Invitation For	a) Marine Refrigerant plant. b) Main Switch boards and Emergency Switchboards.		
03	Invitation Reference No.	(a) BARB (F) - 632/MRP/ 2024-2025 (b) BARB (F) - 632/ MESBd/ 2024-2025	DATE: 01 August 2024	DATE: 01 August 2024
04	Procuring Method	Open Tender (Two Envelop System)		
05	Budget & Source of Funds	Own Finance		
06	Tender Last Selling Date	27 August 2024		
07	Tender Closing Date & Time	Date: 28 August 2024 Time: 11:15am		
08	Tender Opening Date & Time	Date: 28 August 2024 Time: 11:30am		
09	Name & Address of the Office for Selling of Tender Documents:-	(1) Cash Section, Khulna Shipyards Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna. (2) Naval Store Sub Depot, Khikhet Nama Para, Khikhet, Dhaka.		
	Receiving & Opening Tender	Khulna Shipyards Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna (Tenderers and their Authorized Representatives are allowed to attend)		
10	Price of Tender Document	Each Tender (Sl. a, b) Per set 3,000.00 (Tk. Three Thousand) Non-refundable.		
11	Contact Details of Official	Mob: +8801674950715 Email: oicconf.ksy@gmail.com		
12	Special Instructions	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all or any Tenders prior to acceptance without showing any reason.		

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Corrigendum Notice

Tender Name : Procurement of a Foam Tender Fire Fighting Vehicle for Eastern Refinery Limited.
Tender Package No : ER/F&S/T-01/2023-2024, Reference No : 28.25.0000.021.20.035.24.1

Date : 05/08/2024

Serial	Topic	Original date	Corrigendum
01	Tender last selling date	05/08/2024	03/09/2024
02	Tender Closing date & Time	06/08/2024 BST 1500 hrs	04/09/2024 BST 1500 hrs
03	Tender Opening date & Time	06/08/2024 BST 1515hrs	04/09/2024 BST 1515 hrs

Note : All other clauses will remain same .

(Md.Rafikul Islam)
Assistant General Manager (Training/ F&S)
Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204