

Huge loss, little compensation

Chattogram farmers struggle to recover after floods

SIFAYET ULLAH

Md Harun, a 55-year-old farmer, was seen replanting paddy seedlings in his field at Paindong union in Chattogram's Fatikchhari upazila. His 4 acres of paddy crops were damaged due to flood recently.

"I got Tk 1,000 and 20 kg of fertiliser as compensation from the agriculture department, which is very little compared to the loss," the farmer added.

Following excessive rainfall, the flood destroyed the cultivated paddy in seven upazilas of the district, and farmers like Harun are reportedly having difficulties with money and seedlings to replant the paddy fields.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension, the recent flood in Chattogram caused damage to crops worth Tk 394 crore on 58,491 hectares of cropland.

It directly affected at least 1,61,067 farming families.

In Fatikchhari, crops on over 22,000 hectares of land belonging to 7,000 farmers were damaged.

Hasanuzzaman, officer of DAE Fatikchhari, admitted that the compensation is too little than damage.

Abu Taher, a farmer from North Madarsha in Hathazari upazila, has gotten a small amount of cash and other relief from government and aid agencies.

"I got paddy seedlings. But I couldn't plant all of them due to financial constraints," he said.

Taher said he replanted 0.30 acres of field at a cost of Tk 3,800, which was twice the usual.

With struggling to replant, many farmers are also afraid for their future due to damage of their stored food grains.

Alamgir Meah, a farmer from Narayanhata union under Fatikchhari, stored around 500 kg of paddy in a traditional container adjacent to his house to meet his family's demand for the next six months.

But the flood damaged all of that.

"I am afraid of my family's future as I lost my stored food," he added.

Nasir Uddin, deputy director of the DAE (Chattogram), said, "This unexpected flood has put us into a challenging situation, as the disaster has damaged many of our structures, including pipelines and pumps used in irrigation."

"We started providing compensation to farmers," he said, adding, "This crisis cannot be overcome only with government support, so private donor groups need to come forward to help farmers."

The agriculture official said they are currently trying to get farmers back to the field as per government directive.



PHOTO: TITU DAS

BARISHAL CITY

Canal excavation fails to prevent waterlogging

SHUSHANTA GHOSH

The recent excavation of seven canals within Barishal City Corporation hardly made a difference as most of the city areas experienced severe waterlogging following downpour in the last few days.

A total 280mm rainfall was recorded in Barishal city in three days since September 12, submerging the city under 2-4 feet of water.

The Bangladesh Water Development Board initiated a Tk 6.7 crore project to excavate seven canals in the city -- Jail canal, Rupatali canal, Amanatganj canal, Bhatar canal, Sagardi canal, Palashpur canal, and Nabagram canal -- in December 2023. It claimed to have completed the excavation works on June 30, spending only Tk 2.7 crore of the allocated fund.

However, locals alleged that the canals were not excavated properly and only cleaned from the surface, which is why no apparent improvement was seen with the

city's waterlogging issue.

The persistent rains in last few days left Battala Road, College Row, College Avenue, Gorsthan Road, Palashpur, Amanatganj and Rupatali areas of Barishal city submerged under knee to waist deep water. The entire field of Govt BM College resembled a large waterbody. Most of the schools in the city remained closed due to inundation.



"The canals only got a facelift but not properly excavated through this project. As a result, nothing much improved regarding the city's waterlogging woes," said

Manbendra Botabyal, a senior lawyer and also resident of College Row area.

Lincoln Bayen, Barishal district coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said, "There were once 24 canals flowing through Barishal. Now more than six have become non-existent due to rampant encroachment and pollution, which in turn adversely affected the city's water drainage system."

Contacted, Md Khaled bin Alid, executive engineer of BWDB in Barishal, admitted that the excavation work did not bring the expected outcomes.

"Many of the canals have been indiscriminately filled up to build houses, including high-rise buildings, and roads. We could not even bring the excavator to Battala canal. Unless the illegal structures are evicted, it is difficult to excavate the canals properly to eliminate waterlogging from the city," he said.

"An elaborate plan is needed to this end," he added.

Students make pro-VC, treasurer take oath at SUST
Both parties now claim 'it was a misunderstanding'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology found itself embroiled in controversy after newly-appointed pro-VC Prof Dr Shajedul Karim and Treasurer Prof Dr Ismail Hossain were seen taking oaths -- prompted by none other than student leaders.

The teachers were apparently instructed by members of the anti-discrimination student movement to swear allegiance to the "spirit of the mass uprising" and vowed to keep the campus free from student politics.

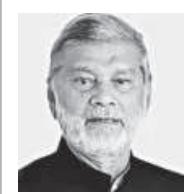
Among other things, the students also made the teachers pledge that the university authorities would take necessary steps for the overall development of SUST.

The incident sparked a flurry of criticism, especially after video footage of the oath-taking started making the rounds on social media. The footage shows student leader Polash Bakhtiar reciting the oath while the pro-VC and treasurer repeating after him.

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Former planning minister Mannan sent to jail

STAR REPORT



A Sunamganj court yesterday sent former planning minister MA Mannan to jail in a case filed over the attack on students during the protests on August 4.

Mannan was arrested by police on Thursday evening from his village in Sunamganj.

Sunamganj Judicial Magistrate Farhan Sadique passed the order after police produced him before the court, said Mashuk Alam, the complainant's lawyer.

On September 2, a person named Hafiz Uddin filed a case with Sunamganj Senior Judicial Magistrate Court over police and Awami League activists' clash with protesters on August 4.

Mannan and 98 other named AL leaders and police officials were accused in the case.

ROAD ACCIDENTS IN 4 DISTRICTS

8 killed, 4 injured in a day

STAR REPORT

Eight people were killed and four others injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Tangail, two people were killed when a truck hit a battery-run easy bike in Dhanbari upazila.

The deceased are Abu Raihan from Jodunathpur village, and Mofazzal Hossain from Ukiabari village in the upazila.

Police and witnesses said the Madhupur-

bound truck from Jamalpur hit the easy bike from the behind in the Baghil area in the morning, leaving one passenger of the easy bike dead.

Police and fire service personnel rescued the injured and rushed them to Madhupur Upazila Health Complex where another easy bike passenger was declared dead, said Idris Ali, officer-in-charge of Dhanbari Police Station.

In Mymensingh, three people including a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver were killed and two others injured when the

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District: Noakhali

www.lged.gov.bd

Dated: 19/09/2024

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)

e-Tender Notice No. 07/2024-25

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated as below:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement method	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Last date & time of tender security submission	Closing & opening date & time
1	1012595	OTM	CAFDRIRP/Noakhali/VR/AM/W-12/2024-25 Rehabilitation of R&H (Afajia) road to Ramcharan Bazar by RCC Road from Ch.1000-2500m under Hatiya Upazila, Dist: Noakhali, (Road ID No: 475364044)	14-10-2024 16:00pm	15-10-2024 13:00pm	15-10-2024 14:00pm

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

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GD-473