

Padma erosion threatens ferry ghat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The Padma river has taken a furious turn, devouring the riverbank at Najirganj in Sujanagar upazila of Pabna, putting the Najirganj ferry ghat under serious threat of erosion.

Officials of the Water Development Board (WDB), however, claimed there is sufficient protection work around the ferry ghat.

During a recent visit to the area, a vast portion of riverbank land around the pontoon of the Najirganj ferry ghat was found already devoured by the river.

With rising water pressure, the river has been eroding the northern part of the ferry ghat over the past few days.

"Riverbank erosion is happening rapidly, and residents living nearby face an increasing threat. The river is coming closer to homesteads," said Md Moshir Rahman, chairman of Najirganj Union Parishad.

If the erosion continues, dozens of homesteads and the ferry ghat itself may be swallowed by the Padma within days, he added.



Md Alamgir Hossain, a BIWTC official and employee of Najirganj ferry ghat, said, "A portion of the riverbank around the ferry ghat has already been devoured, so we are operating the ferries with caution."

Contacted, Sujanagar UNO Meer Rasheduzzaman Rashed said he visited Najirganj to observe the situation. "We have already informed the Water Development Board to take necessary action," he said.

Md Jahedul Islam, executive engineer of the Bera WDB office, said a 300-metre area around the ferry ghat had earlier been protected with CC blocks.

When asked about the sudden erosion, he said, "Due to water pressure, the topsoil has eroded, but there is nothing to worry about yet."

"We are monitoring the situation. The erosion is ongoing but no establishments have been damaged so far. If the situation worsens, we will initiate protection work."



Farmers plant Aman seedlings in a field in Narail yesterday. Taking advantage of the seasonal rains, they have started transplanting earlier than usual. According to the farmers, early planting increases the chances of a better yield. The photo was taken in the Tularampur area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

NALITABARI IN SHERPUR

Thousands suffer for lack of a bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A bridge that collapsed three years ago in Sherpur's Nalitabari upazila has yet to be repaired, leaving thousands of residents in misery.

Locals said the steel bridge on the Polashikura-Batkuchi Tilapara road over the Chellakhali river was destroyed by flash floods in 2023.

Thousands of people from at least 10 villages, including Batkuchi, Meshkura, Somschura, Somoschura, Baromari, Polashikura, Andharupara, Dhalukuna, Sekerchura, and Bonarpura, depend on the bridge throughout the year.

Residents frequently need to visit Mission Hospital, Nalitabari Upazila Health Complex, Union Parishad Health

Centre, and Baromari Christian Mission. Tourists heading to Madhutila Ecopark also travel along this road.

Although the upazila headquarters is only a few kilometres from the bridge



site, the absence of a concrete bridge has forced people to take detours of eight to 10 kilometres, causing immense hardship and additional financial and

time costs.

During the monsoon, the situation worsens.

"As this is a frontier area, it gets hit by flash floods almost every year. A properly planned and well-designed bridge must be constructed to ease the long-standing suffering of the people," said Md Moznun Miah, a school teacher.

Farmers are particularly hard hit.

"We can't get fair prices for our produce because we cannot transport it easily to local bazaars. Middlemen take the lion's share, and many farmers are forced to sell at lower prices," said Mohammad Waliullah, a farmer from Batkuchi village.

Md Jamal Uddin, chairman of

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Migrants trapped in medical

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issuing fraudulent reports, the syndicate earns hundreds of crores annually.

Amid mounting allegations, members of the GCC-approved medical centres voiced their frustration during a programme in Dhaka on June 26.

They demanded the cancellation of licences of syndicate-linked centres and fair referral

distribution.

"About 95 percent of approved centres are getting no work. The syndicate is manipulating the system and earning crores," said one member.

"This is not just corruption -- it's endangering lives," added another. "Unfit workers with fake certificates are being deported, damaging Bangladesh's reputation as a labour-sending country."

AZM Nurul Haque, joint

secretary (monitoring and enforcement wing) of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, said, "We've heard of irregularities, including extra charges for health certificates, but haven't received formal complaints."

"We've contacted the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Ministry of Health Affairs for investigation. We're also conducting our own inquiry," he added.

Starved and tortured

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On January 29, Alamgir's elder brother Abdul Malek filed a case with Adabor Police Station under the Human Trafficking Prevention and Suppression Act. The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) then stepped in.

"Realising the gravity of the case, we launched a proactive investigation," said Enayet Hossain Mannan, additional DIG of PBI, at a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday.

Using digital forensics and bank transaction data, PBI arrested Russel Haque, 25, in Rajshahi on January 30.

Russel was found to be in regular contact with his uncle Kamal Hossain, a Libyan expatriate involved in collecting ransom. A mobile phone used in these communications was seized.

On February 16, PBI arrested Mintu Farazi, 39, in Bagerhat's Moralganj. Farazi had received Tk 4 lakh in two installments from the victims' families. He admitted that the money came from his relative Nazrul Islam, also

based in Libya.

PBI recovered a mobile phone used for the transaction and froze Farazi's bank account before any funds could be withdrawn.

In the early hours of February 18 (Bangladesh time), the captors dumped Alamgir and Siraj outside a hospital in Libya's Zilzila area.

"While in captivity, we saw four other Bangladeshi victims," Alamgir said. "On the day we were abandoned, three more Bangladeshis were brought in."

The two were eventually placed under the care of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with help from BRAC Migration, said the PBI official.

On July 9, PBI took Alamgir into custody upon his arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Efforts are ongoing to bring back Siraj, said the PBI official.

PBI recovered two mobile phones, screenshots of ransom-related bank slips sent to Libya, settlement documents of two bank accounts, audio and video recordings of torture and rescue, photos and videos of the victims during their stay with IOM, documents from BRAC Migration, and a BFU-issued letter freeing the suspect's account.

Freeze

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freeze 53 bank accounts of S Alam, his family members, and his beneficiaries over corruption allegations.

On June 24, the same court ordered the freezing and confiscation of foreign assets owned by S Alam and his wife Farzana Parveen in Cyprus, the British Virgin Islands, and the Jersey Islands.

On June 17, the same court ordered the anti-graft body to confiscate 200.26 acres of immovable property owned by S Alam, his family members, and their beneficiaries. The market value of the properties is Tk 180.61 crore.

Couple die in 'gas explosion'

Daughter hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her husband died, and their three-year-old daughter suffered burns in a "gas explosion" at their residence in Jatrabari early yesterday.

Eti Akter, 30, with 45 percent burns, and Ripon, 40, with 70 percent, breathed their last at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery hours after the blast occurred around 1:45am on the ground floor of a six-storey building, said hospital sources.

Dr Shawon Bin Rahman, resident surgeon, said their daughter, Rafia, 3, who sustained 90 percent burns, is currently undergoing treatment.

Taslina Moni, a neighbour who took the victims to the hospital, said she and others were startled by a loud explosion in the middle of the night.

"The doors and windows of the house were blown off," she said.

Quoting victims and locals, Kazi Ramzanul Haque, inspector (investigation) of Jatrabari Police Station, said residents had been smelling gas -- possibly from a septic tank or a gas line -- for several days.

"We suspect leaked gas had accumulated inside the house and ignited when someone tried to light a mosquito coil," he said.

3 fishers missing after trawler capsizes in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Three fishermen have gone missing, and nine others were rescued after a trawler capsized in the Bay of Bengal near Patharghata upazila in Barguna.

The incident, occurred on Tuesday night, came to light yesterday when the rescued fishers the trawler FB Saiful returned to their respective areas, said Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, president of the Barguna District Fishing Trawler Owners' Association.

The missing fishermen -- Kabir Hiali, 45, Sohag, 30, and Gopal Chandra, 40 -- are from Patharghata, he said.

According to Mostafa, three trawlers -- including FB Saiful -- were fishing in close proximity when FB Saiful, carrying 12 crew members, capsized. Nearby trawlers managed to rescue nine of them, he added.

Patharghata Police Station OC Mehedi Hasan said, "After being informed of the incident by the trawler owners' association, we alerted the naval police in both Patuakhali and Barguna."

2 more die of dengue, 337 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died while 337 were hospitalised in the 24 hours until yesterday morning.

Among the deaths, one was reported in Chattogram division while another in Dhaka.

With these cases, the total number of deaths rose to 54 while total number of infections rose to 13,931, according to the DGHS. Of the total cases, 12,591 dengue patients have been released, of which 9,950 are from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 1,286 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country, and 925 of which are from outside Dhaka.

Request for Quotation: Call Centre System Upgradation Project

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals as well as business entities with a network of 191 Branches, 80 Sub-branches, 330 ATMs, 446 SME Unit Offices and 1,123 Agent Banking Outlets across the country. Currently, the bank is seeking a vendor for its Call Centre System Upgradation Project.

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Technical Offer Submission is issued for the mentioned purpose. The RFQ along with details of the bidding process can be found on the bank's website <https://www.bracbank.com/en/information/e-tender>

Interested eligible bidders are requested to submit the Technical offer as per the mentioned bidding process.

BRAC BANK
অগ্রদূত অগ্রদূত

Rajshahi City Corporation

Engineering Department
Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi
rajshahi.portal.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.12.0000.006.99.076.25.687

Date: 09.07.2025

e-Tender Notice

(IFT: 01/2025-26)

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

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Tender document last selling time and date
1.	1130964	Construction of Central Park Mosque.	12:30pm on 31-Jul-2025

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 downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

রাসিক/জেশো-০২(২০২৫-২৬)
তারিখ: ১০/০৭/২৫
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Submit Your Original & Creative Cartoons & Comic Strips

Topic: "Corruption & Human Rights"

Cartoon (Hand Drawing)

"Ka" (13 - 18 years)

"Kha" (19 - 25 years)

Cartoon (Digital Method)

15 - 25 years

Comic Strip (Hand Drawing)

15 - 25 years

For more information
www.ti-bangladesh.org/cartoon-competition

Deadline
30 September 2025

রাবেয়া খাতুন কথাসাহিত্য পুরস্কার ২০২৫

উপন্যাস ও গল্পগ্রন্থ জমা দেওয়ার আহ্বান

বাংলা একাডেমি পরিচালিত 'রাবেয়া খাতুন কথাসাহিত্য পুরস্কার' ২০২৫ প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে ৪৯ (উনপঞ্চাশ) বছর বয়স পর্যন্ত (জন্ম : ১৯৭৬ সালে বা তৎপরবর্তীকালে) কথাসাহিত্যিকদের ২০২৪ সালে প্রকাশিত মানসম্পন্ন উপন্যাস বা গল্পগ্রন্থ (একটি গ্রন্থের সাত কপি) আগামী ২০শে আগস্ট ২০২৫-এর মধ্যে বাংলা একাডেমির সংস্কৃতি উপবিভাগে জমা দেওয়ার আহ্বান জানানো হচ্ছে।

উপন্যাস বা গল্পগ্রন্থ জমা দেওয়ার সময় কথাসাহিত্যিককে বয়স প্রমাণের জন্য জন্মনিবন্ধন সনদ/জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র/পাসপোর্টের সত্যায়িত কপি ও মোবাইল নম্বর জমা দিতে হবে। শুধু বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক এ পুরস্কারের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন। প্রয়াত ব্যক্তির গ্রন্থ পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচিত হবে না।

ড. মুহাম্মদ মোয়াজ্জেদ হক
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বাংলা একাডেমি
মোবাইল নম্বর : ০১৭১৭৮৭৩৩৪৪

GD-1560