

Erosion threat looms over 80 spots in Barishal



SUSHANTA GHOSH

Continuous rain and strong tidal currents have left residents in panic as more than 80 spots in Barishal district face the threat of severe river erosion.

Although some immediate steps have been taken to tackle erosion at different points, the problem resurfaces every monsoon.

The vulnerable areas include educational institutions, markets, roads, croplands, and residential homes.

Executive Engineer of WDB Barishal, Javed Iqbal, said several major rivers flow through the district, making erosion a serious



and recurring problem during the rainy season.

He said more than 80 locations along the 11.5 kilometres of riverbanks of the Meghna, Kirtankhola, Sandhya, Sugandha, Tetulia, and Arial Khan have been marked as erosion-prone.

Erosion typically begins when the river water level rises due to heavy rainfall and tidal surges. Around 500 metres of road in Dakshin Aicha village of Shayestabad union in Barishal Sadar upazila have already been washed away by the Arial Khan River.

Hamiduzzaman, a farmer from the village, said the roads were eroded a week ago. "Many families are

being evacuated. Now we have to find new land," he said.

The Kirtankhola is currently eroding Lamchhari village in Charbaria union, located next to Dakshin Aicha.

Local Abdul Malek said, "We have changed our residence twice. The river has made us destitute."

Erosion is also taking place at the Babuganj section of the Arial Khan, near the Shikarpur Bridge on the Barishal-Dhaka highway, placing the bridge at serious risk.

More than 400 families have been displaced as a 3.5-kilometre area from Veduria to Ghulighat in Salipur union under Muladi upazila has been submerged under the riverbed. In the same upazila,

erosion has affected the Joyanti River in Mridharhat, Sholaghara, Batamara, and Alimabad areas of Hizla upazila.

Erosion has also occurred in ten unions along the Sandhya River in Banaripara and Wazirpur upazilas, and in four unions along the Karkhana River in Bakerganj upazila.

WDB officials said project proposals worth about Tk 60 crore have been sent to the authorities to fund preventive measures. Of the 80 identified erosion-prone spots, work has begun at 35.

"No allocation has been received for the remaining 45 places. Work will start soon if allocation is received," said Javed Iqbal.

Feni floodwaters recede, leave trails

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include 934 hectares of Aman seedbeds, 7 hectares of ginger, 855 hectares of Aus paddy, 557 hectares of summer vegetables, 14 hectares of chilli, 3.5 hectares of turmeric, and 3,670 sacks of cultivated ginger.

District Fisheries Officer Aminul Islam said fish from 2,300 ponds were washed away, resulting in



- » Number of ponds flooded 2,300
- » Crops on 2,371 hectares of land destroyed
- » 125km of roads damaged

an estimated loss of Tk 10 crore. He said many ponds and fish farms are still

submerged.

Akkas Uddin, a farmer from Paschim Alka village in Parshuram upazila, said, "I couldn't cultivate any crops after last year's flood. This year, my 10 kg of Aman seedbeds were submerged and destroyed. I won't be able to cultivate Aman rice this year."

Farmers Shah Jahan,

Abul Kashem, and Ali Akbar from Chitholia echoed similar concerns.

Mamun Hossain, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver from ward 2 in Parshuram Municipality, said he had taken shelter with his family during the flood.

"When I returned, I found all our bedding and furniture destroyed. We

don't have money to repair our home and are living in miserable conditions," he said.

Md Mahmud Al Faruque, executive engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department in Feni, said 125 kilometres of roads have been damaged, including 100 km in Fulgazi and 20 km in Parshuram upazilas.

Approximately 20-25 percent of these roads are still under water, and the extent of the damage may increase further, he added.

Mozammel Haque, livestock officer of Feni district, confirmed the death of 2-4 livestock animals, with additional losses amounting to Tk 20-30 lakh, including damage to poultry farms.

Residents said Babu and his gang returned after his release, vandalised shops, and broke CCTV cameras.

Faridul Islam, manager of a three-storey building, told this correspondent earlier this month that they had 40 families there, but now only eight remain.

"About 10 days ago, Tunda Babu came with his gang and said the locals had caused him losses. He told us, 'I'm giving you a chance -- you'll have to pay me back,'" he said.

"The locals are terrified," said Morjina Begum, a resident of 13 years. "A few days ago, they held a knife to a grocer's throat, demanding to know who handed their men to police and who killed Babu's associates."

"It's a relief he's in jail now, but even when he was in jail before, his gang kept spreading terror. We're afraid they'll take revenge," she added.

Rab said Babu admitted

during initial interrogation that he worked closely with Kobzikata Anwar and operated under his orders, using teenage gang members for various crimes.

Anwar is now behind bars.

Over 10 cases -- including murder, attempted murder, robbery, mugging, and theft -- have been filed against him at several police stations in Dhaka.

Speaking to The Daily Star recently, Lt Col Khalidul Haq Hawlader, commanding officer of Rab 2, said, "Babu's gang reigned through fear. We've handed him over to the police and requested that he be kept in detention for a long time."

When asked about locals fleeing the area out of fear, he said, "The situation has improved since Babu's arrest. We expect the residents will return to the locality soon."

3 children

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The statement said the

Arakan Army (AA), which

has taken control of much

of Arakan, continues

such practices, targeting

Rohingya civilians through

widespread violence, mass

killings, and destruction.

The Council said it aims to reclaim and protect their indigenous identity and citizenship in Arakan State, advocate for their safe and just return, and engage in dialogue on Myanmar's future federal structure with all stakeholders.

It also plans to represent the Rohingya in international forums, including the UN, OIC, ASEAN, European Union, and others.

Following the atrocities, around 750,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh.

It comprises 40 Central

NEWS

WDB launches eviction drive in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Water Development Board (WDB) has reclaimed over 10 acres of government land on the first day of an eviction drive in Chattogram, as part of an effort to recover nearly 40 acres of land allegedly encroached upon by influential individuals and institutions.

The operation began yesterday morning in the Uttar Kattoli area, backed by the district administration and law enforcement agencies.

Officials said several illegal structures, including a mini stadium, two covered van yards, and 25 shops, were demolished during the daylong drive.

CNG drivers block Plaza routes

The elevated expressway remained open for outbound travel and was also accessible for vehicles moving from Uttara to Tejgaon or Hatirjheel. Additional police forces were deployed in the area to manage the situation and ensure public safety.

The OC said protesters freed the road around 6:30pm.

Abhoynagar

been raising the issue for years, but no one listens. If the embankment breaks, my fields and fish enclosures will be lost."

Locals have attempted makeshift repairs using bamboo, brushwood, and soil, but these measures have proven ineffective in the long run.

"Unless immediate action is taken, a disaster is

inevitable," said local union parishad member Bishwajit Biswas. "Homes, fish farms, and croplands will all go underwater."

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Partha Pratim Shil said, "We are treating the matter with urgency. The Water Development Board has been informed, and repair work on the damaged embankment will begin shortly."

Where hope walks on four legs

FROM PAGE 4

"In Bangladesh, canine cancer has long been an invisible crisis," said Sinha, also chairperson of the foundation.

The inauguration was attended by veterinarians, animal welfare advocates, local officials, and members of the public. Attendees were given a tour of the newly built facility and

introduced to the centre's first patients -- rescued dogs who have already begun receiving treatment.

The centre offers advanced diagnostics, chemotherapy, pain management, and post-treatment care -- services that have never before been accessible in such a specialised setting for dogs in Bangladesh. It also

aims to become a space for learning, where veterinary students and professionals can receive hands-on training in canine oncology.

"This centre is the beginning of something we've needed for far too long," said Shakil Ahmed Siddique, general secretary of Furry Friends Foundation.

যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন এর একটি অস্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান)

যমুনা ভবন, আরাবাদ বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, চট্টগ্রাম-৪১০০।

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বিষয়: যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এ কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী।

বিষয়: ২৯-০৭-২০২৫ তারিখে দেনিক কালের কঠ, দেনিক নয়া দিগন্ত, দি ডেইলি স্টার, দেনিক আজানি পত্রিকায় যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এ কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকাশিত "নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি" এর প্রেক্ষিতে আইনিক, ঢাকা এবং বুয়েট এর তত্ত্বাবধানে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীর লিখিত পরীক্ষা ২৩-০৭-২০২৫ তারিখে গুরুবৰ্ষবেট জ্যাবোরেটে হাই স্কুল, ঢাকা এবং বুয়েট এর তত্ত্বাবধানে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীর লিখিত পরীক্ষা ২৩-০৭-২০২৫ তারিখে পুরকোশল ভবন, বুয়েট ক্যাম্পাস, ঢাকায় অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উচ্চীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা যমুনা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর ঢাকা ক্যাম্পাসে অবস্থিত বিটেক্সিস ভবন-১১তম তলা, ৭-৯ কারওয়ান বাজার বায়/এ, ঢাকা। নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচি মোতাবেক অনুষ্ঠিত হবে:

ক। আইনিক হতে প্রাপ্ত ফলাফল অনুসারে (মন-টেকনিক্যাল ১৪ (টেক্স)টি পদে):

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	রোল নম্বর	মোট উচ্চীর্ণ প্রার্থীর সংখ্যা	তারিখ	সময়
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০২	সিমিয়ার অফিসার (পিলিং)	০১	১২০০০০৯, ১২০০০১৩, ১২০০০১৫।	০৩ জন	২৫/০৭/২০২৫, ক্যাম্বুর	সুপুর: ২:০০ ঘটিকা হতে পুর
০৩	সিমিয়ার অফিসার (পেরচেজেস)	০১	১৩০০০১৮, ১৩০০০২৮, ১৩০০০৪৮, ১৩০০০১৮।	০৪ জন	২৫/০৭/২০২৫, ক্যাম্বুর	সুপুর: ২:০০ ঘটিকা হতে পুর
০৪	অফিসার (কোরে)	০১	১৭০০০০২, ১৭০০০১৫, ১৭০০			