



Jamuna erosion devours 20 homes in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Jamuna river erosion has intensified over the past few days, devouring around 20 houses in Sadia Chandpur union under Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj.

Md Tanvir Hasan, chairman of the union parishad, said the erosion worsened since last Friday.

Dozens of people have been forced to relocate their homes, he said, adding that around 50 more houses and an educational institution in the union are also at risk.

"I lost my home to erosion last year and took shelter in Sadia Chandpur area. Now I have become homeless once again. I barely managed to save my belongings and relocate," said Saiful Islam, a local resident.



Atahar Ali Mondol, another erosion victim, shared a similar ordeal.

"Jamuna is eroding the riverbank areas rapidly over the last three days. At present, the river is 50 metres away from our school. If erosion continues at this rate, the school may be lost to the river," said Md Abdur Rashid, headteacher of Sadia Dewantola Sangkarhaati High School.

Md Solaiman Vuia, a sub-assistant engineer of Water Development Board in Sirajganj, said officials visited the spot on Monday for inspection.

"Jamuna's water level rose recently and then started to recede, causing erosion in the last few days. We are trying to begin riverbank protection work as soon as possible," he said.

Banana boon for farmers in Sherpur



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Banana farming in Sherpur, including in different hilly areas, has become a financial lifeline for many poor and marginal farmers.

This year, the target for banana cultivation was 660 hectares, but the figure has exceeded expectations, with 943 hectares brought under cultivation, said Mohammad Shakhsaft Hossain, deputy director of the DAE in Sherpur.

He said cultivation is increasing every year.

The practice is gaining popularity as the soil and weather conditions in Sherpur are very suitable for banana

farmers. Farmers are showing more interest in cultivating the fruit as a cash crop, and many are becoming self-sufficient, he said.

The bananas produced in Sherpur are supplied to some 20 districts after meeting local demand.

Farmers are selling bananas worth Tk 80,000 to one lakh from 33 decimals of land, spending Tk 20,000 to Tk 30,000 on the same land, said the official.

DAE sources said banana is also being cultivated in various hilly areas of Jhenaigati, Nalitabari and Sribordi upazilas of the district.

Growers said the demand for Sherpur bananas is high due to

their good taste and quality. A large quantity is sold at Chowkida Bari Bazar in Sribordi, where bananas worth around Tk 50 lakh are sold every day during the season.

Taleb Ali, 50, a farmer of Sribordi Sadar union, said he planted 1,200 banana plants this season and expects sales of Tk six lakh.

Akkas Ali, another farmer of the same locality, said many in bordering villages are now focusing on banana cultivation.

Farmers said bananas can be harvested within eight months, making them a lucrative option as they are more profitable than many other traditional crops.



Abandoned vehicles seized in various cases lie rusting in the open on the Chattogram court premises, blocking movement and creating piles of junk that hold no resale value. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

COX'S BAZAR

Fund crunch threatens lifeguard operations

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Rip currents and shifting sand channels have made three of Cox's Bazar's most popular beach zones -- Kolatoli, Sughandha and Laboni -- increasingly treacherous for tourists.

In the past eight months alone, 11 people have drowned while bathing in these waters, with another 11 narrowly rescued from being swept out to sea.

To address such tragedies, private group Sea Safe Lifeguard has been providing rescue services for over a decade. But the initiative is now on the brink of collapse due to a funding crisis.

Supervisor Sifat Saifullah said, "If the service shuts down, the risk for tourists will rise even further."

According to sources, Sea-Safe Lifeguard will end its operations on September 30. From the following day, there will be no trained rescue personnel on Cox's Bazar beach.

The tourism ministry has instructed

the Cox's Bazar district administration to sustain lifeguard operations through contributions from local hotels, motels and guesthouses.

On September 17, Joint Secretary AKM Moniruzzaman issued a letter directing the deputy commissioner to arrange lifeguards under this model.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Deputy Director of Cox's Bazar Local Government Nazim Uddin Ahmed said, "After informing the ministry about the possible shutdown, we were told to continue operations through alternative

means. We have already begun taking steps."

Under the plan, larger hotels would finance the salaries of three lifeguards each, while smaller establishments would cover one each. Existing trained lifeguards are expected to be prioritised.

But the hotel sector has voiced concern.

Cox's Bazar Hotel and Resort Owners Association General Secretary Mukim Khan said, "Although the ministry wants us to finance 27 lifeguards, covering Tk 14-15 lakh per month is unrealistic. Very few owners have agreed, and even if they do, it will take time. Without a clear policy, such funding is unsustainable."

Sea Lifeguard's regional manager Imtiaz Ahmed said the service began in 2012, supported by the UK-based Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

He said the RNLI officially ended the project in December last year but extended it twice at the request of the district administration. With no further support, operations will cease after September.

4 bodies recovered in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police recovered four bodies in separate incidents in Fatullah and Siddhiganj of Narayanganj yesterday.

The deceased include two children -- Abdullah, 4, who was killed after being hit by a battery-run three-wheeler in Fatullah, and Saifa Akter, 8, who drowned in a pond in Siddhiganj.

Sub-Inspector Yasin Arifat of Fatullah Model Police Station said the accident killing Abdullah took place around 8:00am. Driver Sagar, 30, later took the child to Narayanganj 300-bed Hospital in Khanpur, where doctors declared him dead.

Meanwhile, Saifa drowned in a pond near her house while she was bathing, said Jahangir Alam, senior officer of Kanchpur fire station.

Around noon, police also recovered the floating body of boatman Idris Ali Bepari, 45, from the Buriganga River near the Jamuna Oil Company ghat in Fatullah.

Idris went missing on September 22 after reportedly falling from his boat, said Jahangir Hossain, sub-inspector of Pagla River Police Outpost.

On the same day, police recovered the body of Ritu Akter, 22, from Hajiganj in Fatullah. Her father, Kashem Mia, alleged that his son in law called him around 9:00am, claiming that Ritu had taken her own life.

Kashem suspects he killed her daughter. Police said he has gone into hiding since the incident.

Square Group launches mobile hospital for the poor

STAR REPORT

Square Group yesterday launched a mobile hospital initiative aimed at delivering basic healthcare services to underserved communities, particularly in industrial areas, ahead of the birth centenary of its late founder, Samson H Chowdhury on September 25.

At a press briefing held at the Samson Centre in Gulshan yesterday, Tapan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Pharmaceuticals, said the initiative reflects the group's long-term commitment to social responsibility while honouring the legacy of its founder.

He said the initiative, titled "Chhappano Hazar Square Mile Jure" (Across 56,000 Square Miles), symbolises Square's aim to reach people across Bangladesh.



The mobile hospitals will initially operate in Dhaka and its surrounding areas. It will later expand to rural and industrial zones across the country. The project particularly targets low-income communities and female garment workers, many of whom suffer from preventable health conditions but cannot afford treatment.

The initiative will be operated through the Square Foundation and coordinated via the company's "Jotno" app, which allows patients to register, locate services, and track medical history for follow-up care, Tapan said.

Zahangir Alam, chief financial officer of Square Pharmaceuticals PLC, said the service will be provided free of cost for primary treatment to around 300 patients daily.

The official launch of the initiative will take place today at St Mary's Cathedral in Kakrail, Dhaka.

RU officers' association suspends shutdown Nationalist Teachers' Forum continues boycott

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Officers' Association of Rajshahi University has postponed its "complete shutdown" for seven working days after issuing an ultimatum to the administration, announced association president Motkar Hossain yesterday.

"University administrators sat with us yesterday and sought time to address our demands. If the administration fails to do so within seven working days, tougher programmes will follow," said Motkar.

The officers' three demands include reviving institutional facilities, permanent expulsion of those accused of assaulting teachers, and justice for the assaulted colleague.

Meanwhile, the pro-BNP Nationalist Teachers' Forum has vowed to continue boycotting academic activities.

Its General Secretary Prof Amirul Islam said, "We will continue until our demands are met."

Their key demand is justice for the teachers who were attacked during the students' protest against the reinstatement of the "ward quota."

CPB gets new

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of the Bangladesh Chhatra Union, and general secretary of the Krishok Samiti. A history graduate from Jahangirnagar University, his electoral constituency is Narsingdi-4.

Kafi Ratan, an economics graduate from Dhaka University and a

former banker, was an assistant general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Union as well as elected general secretary of Dhaka University's Bangabandhu Hall student union. He later contested as a mayoral candidate in Dhaka North City Corporation. His electoral constituency is Cumilla 5.

AHSANULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
141-142, Love Road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208
Phone: 01682-261500; Web: www.aust.edu

Ref. No. AUST/ASW/OTM/Tender-06/2025-26

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The bidders must submit earnest money @ 2.5% of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of "Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology" along with their offer. Interested bidders may collect the schedule of tender from the Procurement Officer or AUST website (www.aust.edu/notice) on all working days till Oct. 09, 2025 by 4pm. Bidders may visit to AUST security room to see the sample Back Pack during holiday. The sealed offer must be submitted on Oct. 13, 2025 (Monday) by 11:00am at the Treasurer office and the tenders will be opened at 11:30am on the same day (Oct. 13, 2025). Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the tenders.

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