

Two abandoned Tangail sub-jails in ruins

Plan for child dev centres in limbo

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Lying unused for long, the buildings and lands of two former sub-jails at Delduar and Sakhipur upazilas in Tangail are decaying while a plan to set up child development centres by the Department of Social Service is yet to be implemented.

Construction of the sub-jails on about 2.5 acres of land each in the two upazila headquarters was completed in 1988, said sources at Tangail District Jail.

Those were used as upazila jails but their functioning stopped after three years when upazila court system was abolished in 1991.

The unused premises of the two sub-jails virtually turned into habitats of wild animals, locals said.

The set-ups were handed over to the Department of Social Services on May 11, 2003.

At one stage, some people illegally occupied lands of Sakhipur jail by constructing different structures, including shops and clubs. The upazila administration evicted the grabbers several months ago.

The Department of Social Services on March 13, 2007 wrote to the executive engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD) for estimates to renovate the structures at Sakhipur and Delduar for setting up a 50-seat child development

centre and 50-bed Sarkari Shishu Paribar (government-run orphanage) respectively. But further steps could not be taken as the estimates were not given.

As per the decision taken on July 19, 2010, a proposal was sent to the Department of Social Services to set up training centres at the unused jails. But the matter did not proceed, said Md Shahidul Islam, deputy commissioner in Tangail.

The Department of Social Services finally took decision to turn the unused jails to child development centres, officials said.

There are total 400 seats at the child development centre at Tongi in Gazipur but over 900 children (remain in custody for involving with different crimes) are living there.

Pressure on the centre at Tongi will be reduced if child development centres are set up on the premises of former sub-jails in Delduar and Sakhipur, they added.

Md Shah Alam, deputy director of the Department of Social Services in Tangail, said initiative was taken to prepare estimates to repair the structures of the jails but engineers opined that the structures had already turned unusable.

Processes are underway to construct new buildings to start children development centres at the two spots, he added.



Present pictures of former sub-jails at Sakhipur and Delduar, inset, upazila headquarters in Tangail.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

1200 tea workers live miserable life for over 3 weeks

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Habiganj

More than 1000 tea workers' families have been living a miserable life since the authorities shut Rema tea garden in Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila following a clash with tea workers on March 5.

Around 1200 workers became unemployed after the tea garden remained closed. Of them, 395 are permanent tea workers.

On March 5, the tea workers met the manager of the garden and placed their longstanding 11-point demand including payment of arrears and festival allowances, said Tanu Munda, president of Bangladesh Tea Labour Union, Rema tea garden unit.

"At the time, the garden authorities bargained with us to meet the demands, triggering a clash," he said, adding that five people, including the manager, were injured during the clash.

After the incident, the authorities shut the tea garden and the workers became unemployed, said Tanu, adding that the dispensary inside the garden also remained closed since then.

Not only this, manager Dilip Sarkar also filed a case with Chunarughat Police Station against 25 tea workers leaders to harass them, he said.

They have been observing different demonstration programmes including protest rally and human chain on the garden premises demanding reopening of the tea garden since March 5, said Tanu.

Many workers fell ill from starvation as they have been not getting their wages for the last 21 days, he said, adding that even the sick workers are not getting free medicine and treatment as the dispensary remained closed.

The poor tea workers also stopped sending their children to school for want of money, said Dipali Baraik, another tea worker leader of the garden.

Nirmal Chandra Deb, a local union parishad member, said the tea workers have been observing different demonstration programmes to meet their 11-point demand for the last six months, but the demands are yet to be realised.

They also submitted memorandum to the Habiganj deputy commissioner through



Workers of Rema Tea Garden in Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila on Wednesday held a demonstration to meet their 11-point demand including payment of arrears and festival allowances. They became unemployed since the authorities shut the garden on March 5.

PHOTO: STAR

Chunarughat upazila nirbahi officer in this regard, said Nirmal.

Tea labour union's leaders have recently arranged a meeting with the owner and officials of the garden to resolve the problem but it remained unsolved, said Nipen Paul, central joint secretary of Bangladesh Tea Labour Union.

Tea worker leader Dipali Baraik said "Some social organisations came to give us face masks, but I told them we need food not mask."

Tea worker Arun Das Painka said each permanent worker will get Tk 5100 arrears but

they are yet to get the payment.

This correspondent could not reach manager of the tea garden Dilip Sarkar for his comments despite repeated attempts.

Monjur Rahman, owner of the tea garden, said as the tea workers went on work abstention, they are not joining work. If the workers come to join work, the garden will remain open.

Habiganj Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Kamrul Hasan said they are trying their best to resolve the matter. They have already allocated three tonnes of rice for the tea workers.

Man killed for 'stealing mobile phone'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was stabbed to death by some unruly youths allegedly on suspicion of stealing a mobile phone in Charbhadrasan upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased, Sobuj Sheikh, 32, a mason, was son of Mangal Sheikh of Charsultanpur area in the upazila.

Locals, however, caught alleged killer Aklas Mollah, 23, of Char Salipur area, while he was fleeing the spot and handed him over to police.

Belal Sheikh, a member of Char Harirampur union parishad (UP), said Aklas and his two friends waylaid Sobuj and locked in an altercation, blaming the latter for stealing a mobile phone set from one of Aklas' relative's house three days ago.

At one stage of altercation over the issue, the trio drag Sobuj to a nearby field and stabbed him indiscriminately with a knife.

Hearing Sobuj's cry for help, villagers rushed to the spot, and took him to a hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

They also caught Aklas along with the murder weapon and handed him over to police.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Charbhadrasan Police Station Abdul Gaffar said they were trying to arrest the two associates of Aklas.

3 sisters injured by 'extortionists' in Jhalakathi

They are daughters of a late language fighter in the town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A group of youths allegedly led by an extortionist injured three daughters of late language fighter Layla Begum at Chandkathi Choumatha in Jhalakathi town on Wednesday night as the home residents declined to meet their demand.

The victims, Shahnaj Parvin, 50, and her sisters Shahin Parvin Nazma, 46, and Muslima Aktar, 35, were admitted to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital.

"Mainul Hossain, joint secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) Jhalakathi Sadar upazila unit, came to our house in the morning and demanded Tk one lakh as extortion. He threatened to grab our land in front of our house to build shops if we do not give the money," said Shahnaj Parvin, daughter of Layla Begum.

The language fighter died only two weeks ago.

"In the evening, he returned with a group and demanded the amount again. As we refused, they attacked us. They also snatched gold ornaments that we were wearing," she said.

The three injured are out of danger, said Abul Hasan, resident medical officer of Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital.

Rupa Akter, granddaughter of Layla Bagum, said, "A written complaint was filed with Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station on Wednesday night for filing a case against Mainul and his gang. But police didn't take any action."

Contacted, Mainul said, "The Jhalakathi municipality set a basin in front of the house adjacent to Choumatha kitchen market for helping cleanliness of the market people. But the family vandalized the basin and we protested it. We didn't enter the house. The allegations against us are false."

Khalilur Rahman, officer in charge of Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station, said, "We got a written complaint on Wednesday night but I was too busy to take immediate action. I have sent a police officer to the spot this (Thursday) afternoon for investigation."

The spot is only a kilometre away from the police station.



In an attempt to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus in the locality, residents of bordering Bishnupur village in Brahmanbaria's Bijoynagar upazila set up this bamboo barricade on the entry point of the village. Only the villagers, people from surrounding areas and health workers will be permitted to cross the barricade on emergency circumstances. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
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Date: 25/03/2020

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