

FALLOUT OF TOXIC GAS FROM ZFCL

Ammonia-hit villagers' demand unheeded

SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM,
Brahmanbaria

Pollution by ammonia gas emitted from the factory of Ashuganj Zia Fertilizer Company Limited (ZFCL) in the district is causing respiratory and skin diseases to the surrounding villagers and affecting environment and ecology in the area.

On last Sunday, local people again gathered at the factory gate to press the authorities to take urgent step to stop the pollution as large-scale pollution during the last several days left at least 300 people affected with respiratory diseases.

The ammonia pollution is also badly affecting plants, trees, crops, animals, poultry and cattle in the areas around the factory.

The worst affected villages are Char Chartala, Sharifpur, Shariatnagar, Panchbhitia, Madhupur and Lalpur under Ashuganj upazila.

"Sometimes it seems I will die of suffocation caused by ammonia gas," said Md Kuddus Mia of Char Chartala.

Rokeya Begum, who is suffering from sores in between the gaps of her fingers

and toes for two years, said, "When I stay at a far away village for some days, my painful disease gets cured."

Murad Mia, Rumena Begum and Kuhinor Begum have told similar tales.

Children, elderly people and asthma patients are the worst sufferers of the ammonia pollution.

Chartala UP ward member Md Zakir Hossain said they have repeatedly urged the authorities to take urgent steps to solve the problem, but to no effect.

The medical officer (MO) of Civil Surgeon Office of Brahmanbaria, Dr Md Shawkat Hossain said spread of ammonia leads to air pollution and water pollution that may cause skin disease, respiratory problems and other long-term complexities.

"Ammonia pollution causes chest and skin diseases. It also causes genetic problem and affects the breeding organs of animal as a long-term consequence," said Dr AKM Shaheduzzaman, medicine and chest specialist at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

On several occasions, victim villagers gathered at the main gate of Ashuganj ZFCL to press the authorities to look into

their problems.

Emission of ammonia from the factory has become a regular feature as the system of controlling evaporation from ammonia tank remained out of order for long, said ZFCL sources seeking anonymity.

When the plant is over-heated, ammonia from the tank starts coming out, they said.

At a negotiation meeting with ZFCL authorities, victim villagers and local elite on March 23, Ashuganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Rezaul Maksud Zahedi urged the authorities to arrange a regular compensation and rehabilitation for the victim families and take proper step for permanent solution to ammonia pollution problem.

When contacted, ZFCL Managing Director (MD) Md Osman Gani said they are trying to minimise the pollution by spraying water on the outlet of the tank that emits ammonia.

"When any mechanical fault develops, ammonia emission occurs largely. We are going to take steps soon to get a hundred percent control," he added.

Woman with gunpowder arrested in Narsingdi

A CORRESPONDENT,
Narsingdi

Police yesterday arrested a woman for her alleged link with militants at Kawripara in Narsingdi town and recovered gunpowder from her possession.

The arrestee was identified as Ferdausi, 20, wife of Rajon of Baulpara in the town.

Acting on a tip-off, the law enforcers arrested the woman while she was carrying 120 grams of gunpowder to the capital.

During primary interrogation, Ferdausi told police that she took gunpowder from her brother-in-law Manik at Narsingdi as per order of her husband and was carrying the gunpowder to Azimpur in the capital.

The woman further said she had been supplying such explosive powder used in making bombs to different militant organisations for long.

A case was filed against her with Narsingdi Sadar Police Station.



PHOTO: STAR

Interns of Barisal Veterinary Institute observe a daylong sit-in after locking the administrative building of the institute in Babuganj upazila yesterday protesting cut in their monthly allowance.

CUT IN ALLOWANCE

Vet instt interns lock dean office

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Barisal

Interns of Barisal Veterinary Institute yesterday morning locked the Dean and administrative offices of the institute and besieged their teachers protesting cut in internship allowance, campus sources said.

Initially, the allowance was Tk 6,800 per month for each of its 39 interns but it was cut down to 2,500 last month after the institute was turned into a faculty of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU).

The interns started agita-

tion on Rahamatpur campus in Babuganj upazila on February 12 protesting the decision.

Contacted, AKM Mustafa Zaman, Dean-in-Charge of the Faculty of Veterinary Science and Medicine, said previously the institute was under the ministry of fisheries and livestock.

As the University Grants Commission (UGC) is yet to disburse funds for internship allowance the PSTU is giving Tk 2,500 to each intern from its own fund. The UGC will soon rectify the internship allowance, the dean said.

Death of a couple at a rented house at Namajgarh in Bogra town Friday night remains a mystery.

Although a case has been filed in this connection, police and locals are still unsure whether rich businessman Shariful Islam Tipu killed his wife Mitu and then committed suicide.

Neighbours said, the couple from Kahalu upazila did their routine work Friday night and went to sleep.

As they did not come out of their house the next morning locals suspected wrong and informed police. Breaking open the door, police found Shafiqul's body hanging from the ceiling with a scarf while Mitu's body lying on the bed.

Police also found a note near the body of Mitu which read "Mitu's father is a dangerous man. To keep her away from him I have killed her."

Bangladesh Krishi Bank

Head Office

Engineering Department

83-85 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

Re-Tender Notice

Memo No. HO/Engg 18(1)/2008-09/

Date: 23-03-2009

01.	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Engineering Department.
02.	Invitation for	Setting up of a 100mm x 200mm dia Deep Tubewell in Bangladesh Krishi Bank Training Institute Complex, Mirpur, Dhaka.
03.	Invitation Ref No.	11/2008-2009
04.	Procuring method	Open tendering method.
05.	Budget & source of fund	Own source.
06.	Project/program name	Setting up of a 100mm x 200mm dia DTW in BKB TI Complex, Mirpur, Dhaka.
07.	Tender last selling date & time	12-04-2009 upto 3:00pm.
08.	Tender closing date & time	13-04-2009 at 11:00am.
09.	Tender opening date & time	13-04-2009 at 11:30am.
10.	Name & address of the office selling tender	Engineering Department (8th Floor), BKB, Head Office, 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
11.	Receiving tender document	Engineering Department (8th Floor), BKB, Head Office, 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
12.	Eligibility of tenderers	Those who are enlisted in govt/semi-govt/WASA/Public Health Engineering Department/autonomous body and have the experience in installation of at least one deep tubewell. Experience certificate of abovementioned work completed should be given from any govt/semi-govt/WASA/autonomous body by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer.
13.	Brief description of works:	

Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (non-refundable)	Tender security amount (refundable)	Completion time
01.	Setting up of a 100mm x 200mm dia deep tubewell	BKB Training Institute Complex, Mirpur, Dhaka	Tk. 300/- (three hundred)	Tk. 15,000/- (fifteen thousand) in the form of Payment Order/Demand Draft from any branch of BKB.	30 (thirty) days
14.	Name & designation of official inviting tender with address	Deputy General Manager Engineering Department (8th Floor), BKB Head Office, 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
15.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: 9552995 PABX: 9560031-5/442 Website: www.krishibank.org.bd			
16.	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any of all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Tenders will be opened in presence of the tenderer/representative (if any). The tender notice will also be found in our website.			
	PC Bhawal	Deputy General Manager Engineering Department (8th Floor) BKB Head Office, Dhaka			

GD-1675



PHOTO: BANGLA CHOIKH
Road communication between Kuakata and rest of the country snapped as the Bailey bridge of Mohipur ferry terminal on Kalapara-Kuakata road yesterday collapsed when a bitumen-laden truck was crossing it.

AL faction in Pabna sues 25 party rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

A faction of Awami League Atghoria upazila unit has filed a case against 25 leaders and activists of its rival faction following a clash between the two sides during Independence Day programme at Bangshirpara under Majpara Union on March 26.

One faction is led by upazila AL Secretary Shahidul Islam Ratan while another by AL leader and newly elected Upazila Chairman Md Ishrat Ali.

AL leader Moslem, who belongs to Ratan group, filed the case with Atghoria Police Station on Friday night.

The local AL unit has been divided into two factions over January 22 upazila election. AL rebel candidate Ishrat Ali was elected Atghoria upazila chairman, defeating party candidate Shahidul Islam Ratan.

The clash between the two factions ensued over capture of the dais erected for Independence Day programme where Pabna district unit President Samsur Rahman Sharif Dilu was the chief guest. Sharif left the venue as he failed to pacify the clashing groups.

At least 15 people belonging to Ratan faction were injured in the clash.

When contacted, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Atghoria Police Station said they have recorded the case filed by local AL leader Moslem.

Death of Bogra couple still a mystery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Bogra

Death of a couple at a rented house at Namajgarh in Bogra town Friday night remains a mystery.

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Police also found a note near the body of Mitu which read "Mitu's father is a dangerous man. To keep her away from him I have killed her."

RANGPUR WAR CRIMES IN 1971

Punishment to Al-Badr leader demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangpur

Leaders of different political and cultural bodies in Rangpur demanded punishment to a local Jamaat leader for his alleged war crimes in 1971.

Secretary of Sammilito Sangskriti Jote of Rangpur

Shawkat Hossain Ranga said

Azharul was directly involved in the killing of many freedom fighters.

Ranga claimed that

Azharul led the killing of six

teachers and wife of a teacher

of Rangpur Carmichael

College in the first week of

September in 1971.

The leaders raised the

demand at rallies yesterday at

Rangpur Shaheed Minar and

Lahirhat killing ground held

in observance of Rangpur

Cantonment Attack Day.

The speakers said Assistant

Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Azharul, who led Al-Badr in Rangpur, also killed a

number of local freedom

fighters and intellectuals.

Freedom Fighter Rafiqul Islam Golap alleged that

35 hurt as AL, BNP clash in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sirajganj

At least 35 people were injured, three of them seriously, in a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP at Shahzadpur upazila headquarters yesterday.

Witnesses said both sides used lethal weapons and hurled bricks at each other during the clash that continued for one and a half hours.

Police charged batons on the clashing groups and fired tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

Upazila offices of both the parties were also damaged during the clash.

Local units of the ruling and opposition parties blamed each other for the incident.

AL leaders said the trouble began at around 2:30 pm as some BNP men assaulted an activist of Sweekhasebok League in the town.

BNP leaders alleged that AL activists first made an attack on its activist at a tea stall.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital, Shahzadpur Upazila Health Complex and local clinics.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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