

Farmers resist saline water based shrimp farming

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

Farmers in Mongla upazila have vowed to resist shrimp cultivation by using saline water in croplands.

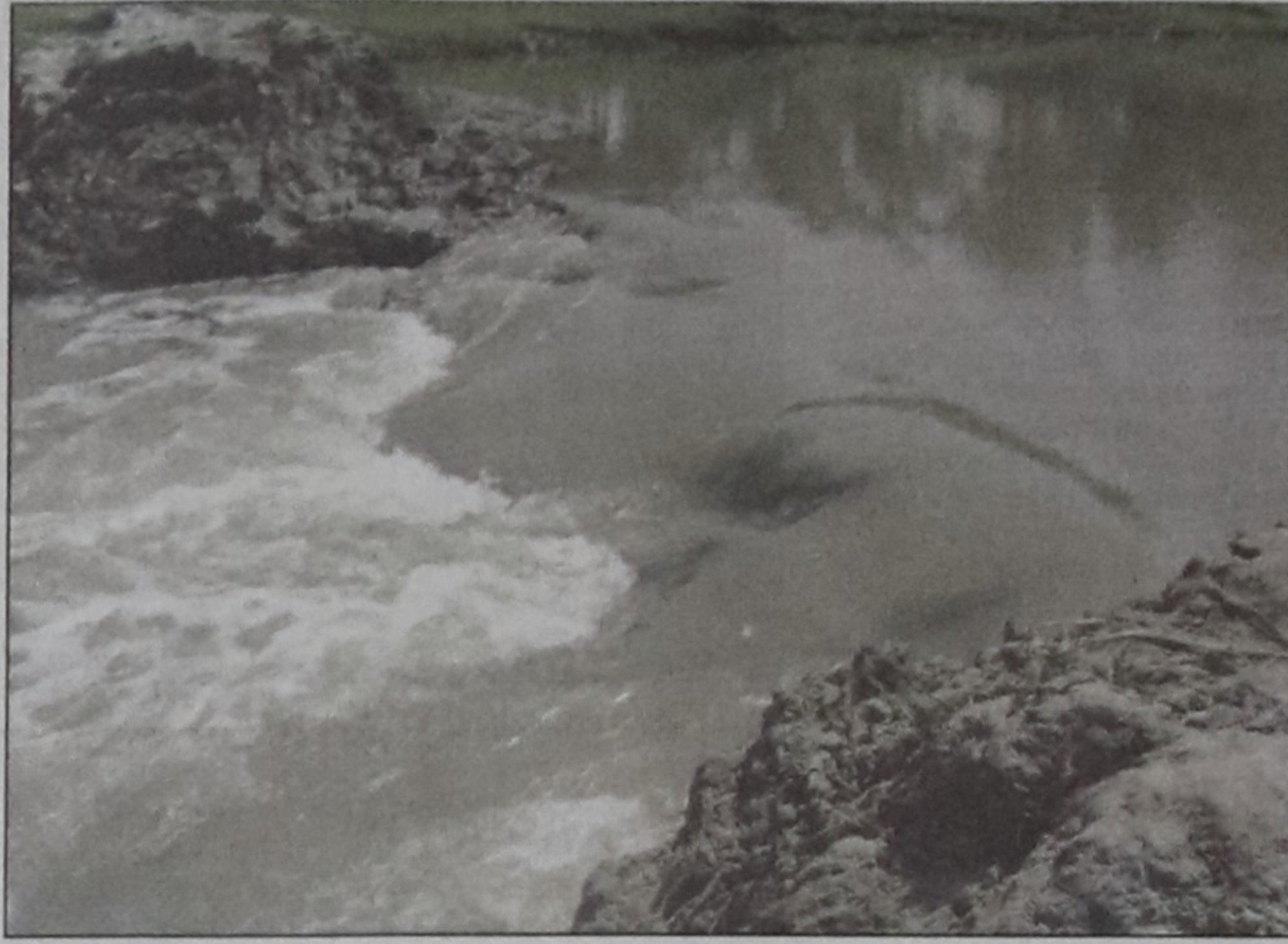
Hundreds of men and women of Kainmari, Chakrakhal, Kalibari, Dasherkhanda and Kanainagar villages of Chandpai union continued movement for the second day yesterday and prevented shrimp enclosure owners from releasing saline water into the paddy fields through sluice gates.

Also on Saturday, hundreds of farmers of these villages foiled an attempt to release saline water into their fields with help of hired goons.

Meanwhile, security has been stepped up at several villages of Chandpai union under Mongla upazila in Bagerhat district fearing bloody clashes any moment between farmers and owners of shrimp enclosures.

According to Vice Chairman of Mongla Upazila Parishad Mohammad Noor Alam, the owners of shrimp enclosures have hired goons to release saline water into the fields in the aforesaid villages defying the call by local lawmaker Begum Habibun Nahar to refrain from using force.

The hired goons on Saturday noon cut the dam of Kainmari Canal to forcibly release saline water into a field.



Defying a call from local lawmaker, goons hired by shrimp enclosure owners cut the dam of Chhoto Kainmari Canal in Mongla upazila to release saline water into the adjoining areas on Saturday.

"The farmers have vowed to resist the hired goons. So the situation in these villages have become highly tense," said OC Feroze Ahmed at Mongla Police Station.

Shubhash Mandal, Gurudas Dakua, Niva Halder and Alta Bagchi of Kalikabari village told this correspondent yesterday that release of saline water in the fields has become a big threat to their

livelihood. Because it damages fertility of the fields, they pointed out.

Mongla Upazila Chairman Md Iddris Ali Ijardar said anti-salinity movement is gaining momentum as farmers are now more aware about the evils of saline water-based shrimp cultivation.

Meanwhile lawmaker Habibun Nahar warned that any ill motive against the

greater interest of the people would be severely dealt with.

She said this as some owners were reportedly still planning to use force and dismantle the sluice gates with the help of hired goons.

Hundreds of villagers were guarding sluice gates and shrimp enclosures of Mongla villages since start of their current protest on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

Two more cases against SIT men in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Bogra

Two job seekers filed separate criminal cases with Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court here yesterday, accusing Chairman of Bogra based NGO Science and Information Technology (SIT) Foundation Abdul Mannan Sarker, his son ASM Rawshan Kabir and six others of cheating in the name of providing job.

The other accused are Regional Director of SIT Foundation Md Hafizur Rahman Jahangir, Trainer Md Kamruzzaman, Secretary Md Ali Asad, Senior Assistant Director Mohammed Ali, foundation employee Md Jamil and Md Mohasin Ali Sarker Raza.

The complainants are Mohammad Ruhul Amin and Mohammad Monirul Islam. Ruhul Amin in his case statement said Abdul Mannan

Sarker, also the director of National Academy for Computer Training and Research (NACTAR) under the Ministry of Education, and seven others cheated him of Tk 1.29 lakh, which he paid on March 7 this year upon an assurance of appointment as an employee in a project namely UNDO.

The accused have been summoned to appear before the court on July 5.

Monirul Islam alleged that Abdul Mannan Sarker and other accused cheated him of Tk 3.55 lakh promising him a job in the same project.

The same court issued an order, asking the accused to appear on 9 July.

With filing of the two cases, Abdul Mannan Sarker and his accomplices have so far been sued in six cases for cheating job seekers of different northern districts.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Boy killed in wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, NETRAKONA

A young artiste of Shatadal Goshti, a cultural organisation in Netrakona and student of class nine was killed in wall collapse Saturday night. Son of Mukul Mia in Kazi Road area, Samrat Mia, 14, was walking by the side of the wall of Jahana Memorial Girls High School at night when the dilapidated wall collapsed on him injuring him seriously. Samrat was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he died in early morning yesterday.

Ruet BCL expels activist

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) unit yesterday expelled activist Nafis Hossain Khan for his anti-organisational activities on the campus. A leader of BCL Ruet unit told The Daily Star that Nafis was expelled for creating chaos on campus. On Saturday night Nafis was allegedly taking preparation for armed attack on members of a BCL faction at Shaheed Salim Hall. Police later raided the hall and arrested eight students including Nafis. BCL leader Nazmul said Nafis earlier made similar attacks and was involved in various criminal activities including extortion and snatching.



A scene from drama 'Kukkuru' that was staged on Shapla Chattar in Teknaf pourasava under Cox's Bazar district yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

School collapses 5 months into construction

A CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmourihaat

Five months into construction, a room of Balapukur High School in Aditmari upazila under the district collapsed on Saturday night.

Jyotsna Rani, woman member of Saptabari Union Parishad under Aditmari upazila, conducted the construction work of the 12 feet by 15 feet room under supervision of the union parishad (UP) in December last year at a cost of Tk 65 thousand.

School managing committee members and locals alleged that low quality materials were used for constructing the room as Jyotsna Rani in collusion with UP Chairman Ananto Roy and concerned ward member Yasin Ali Mollah misappropriated a large portion of the fund allocated for the purpose.

No class was held in the newly constructed room as Saptabari Union Parishad did not hand it over to the school authority, acting headmaster Lakshmi Kanto Roy said, adding

ing that the higher authorities concerned have already been informed of the room collapse.

When asked about the matter, Saptabari UP Chairman Ananto Roy and ward member Yasin Ali Mollah said they did not have any involvement with the construction work.

Both of them said Jyotsna Rani bears the total responsibility for building collapse as she conducted the construction.

Denying the allegations of misappropriating a portion of the fund for constructing the new room of Balapukur High School, Jyotsna Rani said the building collapsed on Saturday night as a tornado-like wind hit it.

Locals, however, said nothing like tornado or storm occurred in the area that night although wind blew a bit strongly.

Aditmari Upazila Nirbahi Officer AYU Zia Uddin Al Mamun, who visited the spot yesterday noon, told the journalists that legal steps will be taken against the responsible persons after inquiry within a short time.



A room of Balapukur High School in Aditmari upazila collapsed on Saturday night, only five months after its construction.

He seldom takes class but draws salary regularly

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Nilphamari

A union parishad chairman in Saidpur upazila is drawing his salary and other allowances as a teacher in a madrasa although he has seldom taught students there during the last seven years.

Azmal Hossen, an assistant teacher of Hazipara Dakhil Madrasa, was elected chairman of Khata Modhupur union parishad under Saidpur upazila in 2002.

Since then he has seldom taught students in the madrasa situated in the same area as he is too busy with his union parishad activities.

But his attendance is shown as regular in the madrasa papers and he has continued drawing his salary and other government allowances for the last seven years.

As he draws over Tk 5,000 as his basic salary and other allowances, he has drawn a good amount from the government fund without rendering any service as a teacher. At the same time he is also receiving government honorarium as a UP chairman.

Superintendent of the madrasa Samrat Khan admitted that assistant teacher Azmal Hossen seldom takes classes in his institution after becoming the UP chairman.

"I had verbally informed the Nilphamari district education officer of the matter," he added.

On condition of anonymity, a number of students, teachers and guardians of the madrasa said the assistant teacher does not take any class.

They, however, are unwilling to make any written complaint as he is 'very influential'.

Saidpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sabina Alam

told newsman that the chairman showed her a letter signed by the then senior assistant secretary of local government ministry in this regard.

The letter mentioned that there is no bar to getting government facilities from any educational institution if a local body leader is serving there as a teacher, the UNO said.

"So I could not take any action against him," she said.

Saidpur Upazila Education Officer Selina Begum said the matter of the Khata Modhupur UP chairman's serving as a teacher in Hazipara Dakhil Madrasa was not known to her.

"A teacher, even if he is an UP chairman, must attend his educational institution and teach the students regularly. Otherwise, it is a violation of departmental rule," she said.

Contacted, Azmal Hossen said, "I never neglect my duty as a teacher in the madrasa. If there is any urgent work in the union parishad, I take official leave."

7 sued in Natore on charges of war crimes

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A petition case was filed with chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Natore, yesterday against seven alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces for killing three people at Laxmipur village under Natore Sadar upazila in 1971.

Abul Hasan Bhuiyan of Laxmipur village filed the case accusing the seven, including an APP, of killing his father Nasir Uddin Bhuiyan and his two brothers Akhteruzzaman bhuiyan and Tamiz Uddin Bhuiyan.

The accused are Abu Bakar of Laxmipur village, Newaz Ali of Halsa village, Abdul Mannan of Uttarpatuapara, Faizuddin of Dattapara, Sultan Miah of Laxmipur village, APP Samsul Haq Bhuiyan and Nuruzzaman of Arkandi village under Singra upazila of the district.

In the case statement, the complainant said the accused stormed into their house at Laxmipur village in the early hours of April 27, 1971, looted valuables and picked up his father Nasir Uddin Bhuiyan at gunpoint.

He said the accused handed his father to the Pakistani occupation forces who killed him on the day.

Abul Hasan further said the accused again attacked their house, picked up his two brothers-- Akhteruzzaman and Tamiz uddin-- and shot them dead.

Father saves his son from tiger's paws

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Satkhira

A father, joining his son's fight with a man-eater Royal Bengal Tiger, finally succeeded in beating back the ferocious animal in the deep forest of the Sundarbans yesterday.

Monju Gazi, 30, and his father Abul Hossain Gazi of village Paikgachha in Khulna district along with six other fishermen went to Khokrakhal canal in the Sundarbans with pass from Kalkhali Forest Station to catch

fish on Saturday.

As Monju went to collect firewood near the canal, a man-eater Royal Bengal Tiger suddenly attacked him yesterday.

Sensing danger, Monju's father Abul Hossain rushed there and got engaged in a 'life or death' struggle to save his son.

After wrestling for half an hour, the beast fled away when other fishermen arrived there.

With serious injuries in hand, chest, head and legs, Monju was rushed to Shyamnagar Upazila Health Complex.



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3rd Time Tender

1. Sealed tenders (single envelop system) in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following item for Bangladesh "Army":

Ser No.	Nomenclature	Date of Selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No.
		From	To			
a.	Socks Cotton Black (Officers) Qty-6,000 Prs	17-5-2009	02-6-2009	03-6-2009	Local	62592/P-6

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (non-refundable) during office hour between 0800 hour to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and will be opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/09/2878
GD-2383

Major
For Director General