

Children's park turns into virtual grazing field

RABIUL HASAN,
Chapainawabganj

Chapainawabganj Shishu Park, the lone park meant for children's recreation in the town, has remained in an awful state for years while a section of unscrupulous locals have turned it into a virtual grazing field.

With lost greenery, worn out and damaged rides and other amusement equip-

ment, and broken gates, the park no longer attracts children as it hardly saw any repair for years.

During a recent visit to the park, this correspondent saw some boys playing cricket and a woman grazing cattle inside the park.

"As there is no facility to use to the recreational items, we play cricket here," said Abdul Awal, a class seven

student of Green View High School in the town.

Set up in mid 80s on 1.68 acres of lands in front of Chapainawabganj deputy commissioner's office, the park was later handed over to Chapainawabganj municipality for its proper maintenance.

That time riding tools including cradles and ladders, and other playing

equipment offered recreational facilities, especially for children. There were also fruit bearing trees including mango and plum. Children could pass time amid great merriment, enjoying the rides and having relishing bites of fruits, locals said.

But the park, hardly having any repair during the last one decade, is now in a shabby condition, said municipal

officials and locals.

"My son earlier used to play in the park. But now he avoids it due to its dilapidated condition," said, Faijur Rahman, a resident of Lakherajpara near the park.

A few children were hurt while riding the broken and worn out equipment, said locals.

Urging the authorities concerned to repair the children's park, Roksana Akhtar, headmaster of Green View High School in town, said, "Chapainawabganj Shishu Park is just beside my school but our students do not go there due to its bad condition."

"Plays serve as means by which children learn without being taught. It involves doing, exploring, discovering, failing and succeeding. So a children's park with sufficient playing materials is needed here," Hasib Hossain, executive director of Proyas Manobik Unnayan Sangstha, and a teacher of Shah Neyamatullah College in the town, said.

Dr Abdul Matin, medical officer of Chapainawabganj Civil Surgeon's Office, said, "The social skills that children develop through free and spontaneous plays are carried forward into their adulthood. It is important for their healthy development and allows them to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength."

Abdul Matin, mayor of Chapainawabganj municipality said they have a plan to repair and modernise the children's park and steps will be taken if fund is available.



PHOTO: STAR

The lone children's park in Chapainawabganj town now hardly attracts any visitor as the recreation centre under the supervision of the municipality authorities has turned into a virtual grazing field in absence of proper care and maintenance work for years.

Workers at state-run organisations across country stage 24-hr strike

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Workers at different state-run organisations across the country observed a 24-hour strike yesterday demanding retrospective effect to the recommendations of the National Wages and Productivity Commission.

The cabinet in mid-January endorsed the recommendations of the National Wages and Productivity Commission that proposed for monthly lowest wages of Tk 4,175 for a worker and decided to bring the recommendations into effect from July 1, 2010.

However, the workers of state-run organisations yesterday enforced the strike demanding to effect the new wage structure from July 1, 2009, instead of July 1, 2010.

The work abstention programme was announced by the central body leaders of the workers on January 25.

Our Staff Correspondent in Khulna reported that production at seven state-owned jute mills of Khulna-Jessore industrial belt remained suspended from 6am yesterday in response to the call for 24-hour strike given by zonal committee of Patkal Sangram Parishad to press home 10-point demand of workers and employees.

The demands include implementation of recommendations of National Wages Commission with effect from

July 1 of 2009.

Workers staged demonstrations in front of their respective jute mills while observing the programmes.

Jatiya Sramik League, Jatiyatatabadi Sramik Dal and Jatiya Sramik Party have expressed their solidarity with the ongoing agitation of Patkal Sangram Parishad.

In Natore, workers and employees of Natore Sugar Mill and North Bengal Sugar Mill observed strike yesterday to press home their demand for implementation of the recommendations under National Wages and Productivity Commission, with effect from July 1, 2009.

The workers started the work abstention from 8:00am and took position in front of their respective sugar mills in Sadar and Lalpur upazilas, reports our correspondent.

Workers of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh Sugar Mills Limited also observed the strike from 6:00am to press home their 9-point demand, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

In Panchagarh, workers of the mill gathered at the mill gate and brought out procession chanting slogans in favour of their demands.

In the afternoon a rally was held at the mill gate area where the leaders urged the government to meet their demands for the sake of their better life

as the prices of essential commodities shot up in the last few months.

In Thakurgaon, the workers and employees of Thakurgaon Sugar Mills observed the programme to realise their 9-point demand including early implementation of wage commission recommendation.

In Rangamati, workers at Karnaphuli Paper Mills (KPM) at Kaptai upazila also observed the strike yesterday.

The workers abstained from work to press for their demands including implementation of wage commission, increase of hill allowance to Tk 3000 from 1500, profit bonus and correction of grade-16 for the workers, reports our correspondent.

The workers also formed human chain and staged sit-in at the mill.

In Brahmanbaria, about 1000 workers and employees of Ashuganj Fertiliser Chemical Company Limited (AFCCCL) observed work abstention yesterday, reports our correspondent.

According to police and AFCCCL sources, the workers of the factory locked the main gate in the morning after signing their attendance register at the office.

Due to the programme at main gate, loading of fertiliser remained stopped. The dealers could not withdraw their allocated fertiliser from the factory yesterday, sources said.

22,000 bird flu affected fowls culled in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Manikganj

District administration and livestock officials culled 21,885 bird flu affected parent stock of fowl and 6,227 eggs of Green Valley Agro Complex at Andharmanik in the town on Tuesday night.

"After I informed the district livestock officials on Monday, they visited the farm on Tuesday morning and took samples of parent stock to the Field Diseases Investigation Lab (FDIL) in Manikganj for examination," said Dr Raja Pramanik, deputy general manager of the agro complex.

As FDIL officials found bird flu germ in the parent stock, Director (Health and Administration) of Livestock Directorate Dr Mosaddek Hossain asked the local administration and district livestock office to cull the bird flu affected parent stock and eggs, said District Livestock Officer (DLO) Dr Mrinal Kumar Nath.

Dr Mosaddek also directed banning all activities of the farm for the next three months, Dr Mrinal said.

Executive Magistrate Nargis Parvin, Dr Mrinal Kumar Nath, proprietor and Managing Director of the agro complex Sakhawat Hossain and Deputy General Manager Dr Raja Pramanik were present during the culling.

Proprietor the agro complex Sakhawat Hossain said they suffered an estimated loss of Tk 5 crore.



PHOTO: STAR

Magura Language Movement heroes: Above (left to right): Late Narsirul Islam Abu Mian, Khan Ziaul Haque, Aminul Islam Chandu Mian and Hamiduzzaman Ehia. Below (left to right): Late Abdus Salam, Ali Ahmed, Mirza Shawkat and late Jalil Khan.

MAGURA LANGUAGE HEROES

No words of praise from the state yet

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Language Movement heroes in Magura have hardly got any recognition from the state, although they braved all odds to uphold the dignity of mother language during the turbulent days of February, 1952.

Taking part in the Language Movement in the then sub-divisional headquarters, many of them faced police torture and imprisonment, said a few of the still surviving heroes.

"No political or socio-cultural organisations here held any programme in honour of the glorious role of Language Movement heroes and most of them have already passed away unsung," said Khan Ziaul Huq, a leading Language Movement hero and educationist in Magura.

It was essential to make the nation aware about the contribution of language heroes to encourage our new generation to sacrifice during such national crisis, he said.

"The government should take initiative so that language heroes can

get state honour at least posthumously," said another Language Movement hero Aminul Islam Chandu Mian.

The wave of the Language Movement, launched from the then provincial capital Dhaka, rapidly touched the then sub-divisional headquarters of Magura like many other parts of the country.

Local student leaders along with general students of the then Islamic College (now Government Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy College) embarked on the movement to establish Bangla as a state language, Language Movement veterans said.

Student leaders Nasirul Islam Abu Mian, Khan Ziaul Huq, Abdul Jalil Khan, Aminul Islam Chandu Mian and Azim Dewan mainly led the movement at Magura. Ziaul Huq and Chandu Mian are still alive while two others have passed away.

On February 21 of 1952, various programmes including rally was held at Magura under the leadership of Nasirul Islam Abu Mian.

Police picked up Ziaul Huq, Chandu Mian and some other leaders when they brought out a procession from Nomanai Maidan area and moved towards Chourongi Square in Magura town, said the language heroes.

Meanwhile, Mirza Shawkat Hossain, a student leader from the then Iqbal Hall of Dhaka University, came to Magura and held meetings at different educational institutions and played a key role to motivate and organise the general students in joining the language movement.

Another student leader of Raicharan High School AK Hamiduzzaman Ehia with the cooperation of Sreepur High School headmaster Abdur Rahim Joarder began to organise the students of different institutions in the then Sreepur thana. Abdus Salam, Abdur Rashed, Ali Ahmed and Jitendranath Ghosh, among others, assisted Ehia, local Language Movement veterans said.



PHOTO: STAR

Around 40 maunds of jatka (hilsa fry), seized by coastguard from a Dhaka-bound launch, being buried at Charnuktarpur on the Dhaleshwari River in Munsiganj Sadar upazila. Law enforcers seized around 300 maunds of jatka from the same river during the last few days as a section of fishermen have continued the callous act in defiance of a government ban.

HABIGANJ SERIAL BLAST CASES

Deposition of PWs deferred for absence of an accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Deposition of prosecution witnesses (PWs) in the cases for serial blasts in Habiganj town in 2005 was yesterday deferred to March 21 as police could not produce one of the accused in the Court of Joint District and Sessions Judge.

Court sources said JMB activist Salah Uddin alias Salehin, one of the six accused in the cases, was in the capital in connection with another case.

Judge Faruque Ahmed, however, fixed March 21 for recording the statements of the PWs, sources said.

Five other accused--outlawed JMB chief Maulana Saidur Rahman, his son and JMB's

IT chief AHM Shamim, JMB activists Belal Hossain alias Tamim, Azizul Islam alias Azizul, and Hafez Huzaifa alias Obaidulla -- were produced in the court.

Five cases were filed with Habiagnj Sadar Police Station immediately after the blasts in Habiganj town on August 17 in 2005.

After investigation, police pressed charges against Maulana Saidur, his son Shamim and five other JMB men. The cases were transferred to the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet, for trial in August 2010.

As the trial of the cases could not be completed within the stipulated time, these were sent back to Habiganj District and Sessions Judge's court recently.



PHOTO: STAR

Huge quantity of sugarcane lies on the premises of Panchagarh Sugar Mills as crushing remained suspended during workers' 24-hour countrywide strike yesterday demanding retrospective effect to the recommendations of National Wages and Productivity Commission.