

# Death of a Barisal pond

*Bela files case, appeals for injunction against earth filling*

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Barisal

Filling of century-old Police Club Pond at Mallik Road-Fakir Bari Road crossing in Barisal city has continued, thanks to the negligence of authorities concerned.

Lincoln Bayen, acting coordinator of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) Barisal district unit, lodged a case with Senior Assistant Judge's Court of Barisal and appealed for imposing injunction against the pond filling.

Md Al Amin, judge of the court, received the case and fixed the date of hearing of injunction prayer on July 23.

Advocate Suvash Chandra Bipro Bedanti, former district coordinator, and Lincoln Bayen, officer of Bela Barisal office, said the then land owner Nirad Ranjan Guha dug the pond on about 50 decimal of land more than a hundred years ago for use as drinking water source of the locals.

After the owner of the pond and adjoining land and building left the country in 1956, the government acquired the property and established district Police Club there. Consequently, the pond became known as Police Club Pukur (pond) and got listed as vested property, said Dipak Chatterjee, a local land official.

But later claiming ownership of the property, one Daliluddin Sardar, owner of a neighbouring land,



PHOTO: STAR

**KILLING A HISTORIC WATER BODY: Ignoring environment law, a claimant of partial ownership of this century-old pond at Mallik Road-Fakir Bari Road crossing in Barisal city has continued filling it up, thanks to the indifference of authorities concerned.**

filed a case and received a decree in favour of ownership of saat anna (about half) land of the pond a couple of years ago.

Daliluddin's sons Aziz Sardar and Shahin Sardar erected a bamboo fence and started sand filling part of that pond on Friday last.

"We are filling our portion of the pond and there is no law against filling of private ponds," Aziz Sardar claimed.

Devdas Bhattacharya, Barisal district police superintendent, said, "Owner of the land beside Police Club Pond received a decree on saat anna

portion of the land of the pond. They are not filling any portion of the pond that is owned by police authorities."

No appeal was filed in higher court against that decree as a section of administration and police officials were 'managed', alleged a few local residents.

Asked about the matter, advocate KBS Ahmed Kabir, government pleader, said, "No appeal was lodged in this connection as it would not bring any result."

Tarikul Islam, superintending engineer of Barisal

City Corporation, said the corporation has nothing to do against filling of any private water body.

Sukumar Biswas, director of Directorate of Environment (DoE) Barisal office, said, "No objection certificates from the DoE, land office and city corporation are needed for filling any water body, be it public or private. The DoE on Tuesday sent notice to people and authorities concerned against filling of Police Club Pond and we will take legal action against the violators of the law."

# Robbers kill schoolgirl in Laxmipur

*Five houses looted*  
UNB, Laxmipur

Robbers stormed into five houses in four villages of Sadar and Roypur upazilas and looted valuables worth Tk one crore, leaving a schoolgirl killed and four of her family members injured early yesterday.

The victim was Sima Rani, a student of class VII at Protappanj High School and daughter of Laxman Dev of village Bashu Dhuhita in Sadar upazila. The injured are Minati Rani, Geeta Rani Devnath, Krishan Nath and Dipti of the same family.

Police and locals said, a gang of armed robbers, wearing masks, entered the house of Kala Sadhu, introducing themselves as policemen at Bashu Dhuhita village late at night.

The robbers took the family members hostage by tying up their hands and mouths and looted gold ornaments and cash from the house.

They also stabbed and beat up the family members, leaving four of them critically injured.

When Sima raised a hue and cry, one of the robbers strangled and fled the scene.

Sources said, a gang of armed robbers looted valuables including nine tolas of gold ornaments from the house of Ali Akbar, cash Tk 50,000 and three tolas of gold ornaments from the house of Fazlul Karim at Dhannyapur village, four tolas of gold ornaments from the house of Abdul Karim at Uttar Chandipur village in Sadar upazila late at night.

Meanwhile, another gang looted cash Tk 1.5 lakh and 30 tolas of gold ornaments from the house of Molla Bepari at Sonapur village in Roypur upazila the same night.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Pabna University of Science and Technology observed a token hunger strike at Central Shaheed Minar in Pabna town yesterday to realise their 8-point demand.

# PABNA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Token hunger strike held, class boycott continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Pabna

The students of Pabna University of Science and Technology observed a token hunger strike on the premises of central Shaheed Minar in the district town yesterday as part of their ongoing agitation programme.

Earlier on Tuesday, the students started indefinite class boycott and demonstration programmes to press for their eight-point demand.

The demand includes introduction of 'short semester system' for promotion, amendment to present GPA (Grade Point Average) system, cancellation of results published according to the running GPA system, eight years' registration validity instead of present six years, recruitment of experienced teachers, con-

struction of university campus hurriedly, and end to 'ill-treatment' by the teachers.

The students gathered on the Shaheed Minar campus at about 9:00am yesterday and continued their token hunger strike there till 1:00pm.

"We are holding our programme peacefully. But the university administration has not taken any step to solve our problem," said Md Baki Billah, convener of the 51-member students' demonstration committee.

Announcing Sunday as deadline for meeting their demands, the agitators said otherwise they will siege the vice chancellor's office.

Contacted, Md Kamruzzaman, proctor of the university, said, "Following formation of a committee by the vice chancellor, we the teachers of all the departments tried to talk with the

students for solving the problem but the students did not respond to our call. Still we are trying to find a solution."

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mozaffar Hossain said, "The Regent Board of Pabna University of Science and Technology approved every rule including the provision of minimum GPA-2. We cannot change any rule immediately. A committee has been formed. They will recommend what to do."

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