



Waterlogging caused by hindrance to flow of water in three canals of Kalikapur area of Patuakhali town, following construction of embankments across the canals, has become a nuisance for locals.



PHOTO: STAR

Enclosures on canals trigger waterlogging in a village

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Over 10,000 people of Pashchim Kalikapur in Patuakhali municipality area have been suffering due to month-long waterlogging as influential grabbers have virtually killed three canals by building over 100 enclosures on them to link their houses to the nearby roads.

Majhgram and Nandokani canals linking Lawkathi River and Kurir canal linking Hetalia canal play important role to ensure smooth water flow in Pashchim Kalikapur (Ward No 9 under Patuakhali municipality) area.

To control water flow, the municipality authorities built three culverts on these canals several years ago.

But the influential locals grabbed much of these canals and built over 100 enclosures, stopping water flow in the canals.

As rainwater cannot flow through the canals, most of the houses in the area remained flooded for over a month, said Abdus Sobhan Mridha, former councillor in the area.



PHOTO: STAR

Majhgram canal flowing through Patuakhali town gets divided into a number of pond-like water bodies as several locals made earthen roads across the canal in front of their houses.

Shahidul Islam, a staff at the survey office in Barisal, occupied a portion (0.21 acres) of Majhgram canal in front of Rural Electrification Board office. He has already built a boundary wall there

as he has a plan to set up a clinic there, locals said.

This correspondent tried several times to communicate with Shahidul Islam but he did not receive phone calls. One Bacchu Talukder,

who identified himself as supervisor of Shahidul, declined to make any comment over the matter.

"Many people illegally built establishments on both sides of these canals. Municipality authorities should take immediate step to remove all illegal structures from these canals in the interest of local people," said Gias Uddin, a local resident.

Md Jahid Sikder, councillor of ward No 9 of Patuakhali municipality, said he has already submitted written complaint to the municipality authorities to take step to remove all structures from the canals.

When contacted, Dr Shafiqul Islam, mayor of Patuakhali municipality, said, "We will take immediate step to remove all illegal structures from the canals with the help of district administration."

Man chased by BSF drowns in river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A stone quarry labourer, chased by Indian Border Security Force (BSF), drowned in Jadukata River near Lauregarh border in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj district at midnight on Friday.

The dead, Abdul Mosobbir, 45, hailed from Dakkhinpur village of the upazila, police said.

Police and locals said a group of labourers went to Jadukata River for collecting stones. As some of them reached near the zero line, BSF personnel chased them. Mosobbir jumped into the river and drowned. His body was later recovered from the river.

Md Abdur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Tahirpur Police Station, yesterday told this correspondent that they sent the body to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Contacted, Major Kibria, operations in charge of BGB 8 Battalion, confirmed the incident.

AL men assault UP chairman for share of VGF cards

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A union Parishad (UP) office was vandalised and the chairman and members were assaulted allegedly by the ruling party men over distribution of VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) cards in Atghoria upazila of the district yesterday.

The incident occurred at Ekdanta Union Parishad office when Chairman Md Lokman Hossain along with four members was making a list of ultra poor people of the union to distribute VGF cards among them ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Chairman Lokman said a group of AL men led by Yunus Bahadur, president of Jubo League Ekdanta union unit, came to the union parishad office at around 11:00am and demanded around half of 3,172 VGF cards.

"As I refused to pay heed to their demand, the AL men got furious, vandalised UP office and information

centre and assaulted me and four members," the chairman said.

Ekdanta Union Parishad has got as many as 3,172 VGF cards to distribute among the ultra poor people ahead of Eid. But Yunus and his men were demanding half of the cards illegally, Chairman Lokman said, adding that they will file a case against the attackers with the police station concerned soon.

Refuting the allegations, Jubo League leader Yunus said UP Chairman Lokman belongs to Jamaat-e-Islami. He has made a list of Jamaat men to distribute VGF cards.

Since locals went to the UP office to lodge a protest against the illegal act of the chairman, he and his men attacked them, Yunus alleged.

Md Monirul, officer-in-charge of Atghoria Police Station, police visited spot soon after the incident. No case was filed in connection with the attack on the UP office as of 6:00pm yesterday, the OC added.

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