

Resolve acute water crisis created by power plant

Demand people of 10 Barapukuria villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Villagers around Barapukuria power plant yesterday staged a protest, alleging that they had been suffering from water crisis due to the plant's operation.

Sources said, the plant in Parbatipur upazila requires at least 1300 tonnes water per hour to generate power.

The authorities set up 24 high-powered water pumps at Sherpur village and 14 of

them operate round the clock to pull the water from underground every day.

Villagers say that excessive use of underground water has created water crisis in the surrounding villages as the tubewells have dried up there in the recent months.

Yesterday, several thousand people of 10 villages including Dudhipukur, Rambhadrapur and Sherpur villages gathered in front of

the power plant to protest the water crisis, allegedly due to the power plant.

Pani O Bidyut Sangram Parishad, a body of the affected villagers organised the demonstration.

Demanding a permanent solution to their problem, the villagers holding banners and festoons, formed a human chain at around 11:30am which continued till 1:00pm.

The participants also demanded power connec-

tion to the villages around the power plant.

The human chain was followed by a protest rally at the same venue.

At the rally, the villagers alleged that the 14 high-powered water pumps were drawing 1200 to 1300 metric tonnes of water every hour from underground to generate power.

The tubewells in villages went out of order as the water tables fell further due to this, they said.

The protesters also threatened to launch a greater agitation if their demands were not met within a reasonable time.

Later, the leaders of the parishad handed over a memorandum in this regard to the Chief Engineer of the power plant.

Monzurul Haque, chief engineer of Barapukuria 250MW Power Plant, said they had arranged water supply to affected villagers when the water crisis was noticed in 2009.

"But as the water demand went up in the recent times, we are now trying our best to find a way out," he told this correspondent.



PHOTO: STAR

Villagers around Barapukuria power plant under Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur stage a demonstration yesterday alleging that 14 high powered water pumps of the plant lift water from underground round the clock, creating acute water crisis in ten villages.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Chittagong-Satkania Road went under water following a downpour yesterday, snapping communication between the port city and the upazila headquarters.

They drink to death for want of arsenic free tube-wells

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Arsenicosis affected Asia Begum is counting her days at her Hogoldanga village home in Sabdalpur union under Sreepur upazila of Magura district as doctors at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Medical University detected malignancy in her liver seven months ago.

The 50-year-old woman, now bed-ridden, can hardly eat as she has very little digestion power, family sources said.

Asia's husband Baharul Munshi, a poor farmer, died in 2003 after both of his legs were amputated as those developed gangrene from long-term intake of arsenic contaminated water.

Seven other people of the same village also died of arsenicosis and arsenic related diseases between 2003 and 2012 by drinking arsenic contaminated water for several years, sources in Sreepur upazila health complex said.

In last four years, Laily Khatun, 46, wife of Golam Sarwar, their son Belal Hossain, 25, and daughter Joly Khatun, 13, died of similar situation.

Rizia Khatun, 30, Abul Kalam, 50, and Abdus Salam, 42, of the village also faced the same fate in 2003, 2005 and 2009 as they drank arsenic contaminated water for years, family and upazila health complex sources said.

In the latest incident on July 11 this year, Golam Tahir, 52, of the village died after his right leg was amputated about eight months ago as gangrene was detected by the doctors, sources in UHC informed.

Visiting the village about 20 kilometres from Magura district town, this correspondent found Golam

Sarwar, 50, his daughter Asma Khatun, 15, Abu Zafar, 34, Sharafat Ali, 40, Rabeya Begum, 40, Firoz Mia, 22, Nawab Ali, 18, Hitu Munshi, 20, Salma Khatun, 20, Shahidul Islam, 53,

other people," said Shamsunnahar, wife of deceased Abdus Salam.

When contacted, Mohammad Zinarul Islam, assistant engineer of the Department of Public

Health Engineering in Magura, said, "Within the shortest possible time we will install a deep tube-well at Hogoldanga village to ensure safe water for the villagers."



PHOTO: STAR

Victim of arsenicosis Asia Begum counts her days at her village home in Magura as doctors recently detected malignancy in her liver, right, hand of an arsenic victim at Hogoldanga village in the district.



Dr Shyamol Kumar Das, Sreepur upazila health and family planning officer, said, "The case of arsenic poisoning in Hogoldanga village is a unique case as all the victims of arsenicosis including the eight killed people are members of an extended family. We are now giving iron and antioxidant tablets to the arsenicosis patients as there is no remedy of the disease."

SNIPPETS

Man killed over fish theft

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A man was killed over stealing fish at Magurghona village in Dumuria upazila early yesterday. The deceased was identified as Shotodal Roy, 42, of Basundia village in Keshobpur upazila of Jessore district. Police alleged that Shotodal along with his two accomplices entered a shrimp enclosure for stealing fish at dead of night. Sensing the presence of the thieves, Oliar Rahman, owner of the enclosure, along with his men chased them and caught Shotodal Roy red handed while the rest managed to flee. As the news spread, locals beat up Shotodal mercilessly, leaving him critically injured. He was rushed to the hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

College student electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A college student was electrocuted at Rosy Super Market in the district town on Saturday night. Sagar Hossain, 20, son of Hamidul Islam of Ekdala village in Sadar upazila, was a third year student of Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute. Abdullah Al Mamun, officer in-charge of Natore police station, said Sagar came in contact with an electric wire while he was talking over mobile phone on the roof of the market at about 9:30pm. He was rushed to Natore Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Schoolboy drowns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A schoolboy drowned in a pond at Burimari village in Patgram upazila yesterday. Riad Hossain, 9, son of Ashraf Islam of the village, was a class four student at Burimari Government Primary School. Sohrab Hossain, officer in-charge of Patgram police station, said Riad went to the pond near their homestead for taking a dip at around 1:30pm. Later, locals found his body floating in the pond.

Man with arms arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested a man along with a foreign made revolver and three bullets at Char Kurulia village in Ishwardi upazila on Saturday night. The arrestee was identified as Md Abdus Salam, 32, of the village. Md Mostafa Harun, officer in-charge of DB, said acting on a tip-off, a team raided the village at about 11:30pm and arrested Salam along with the arms and ammunition.

2 held with fake notes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police arrested two people along with fake currency notes in a bus stand area of Hatibandha upazila yesterday morning. The arrestees are Abul Kalam Azad, 42, son of Jomir Uddin of Jomgram in Patgram upazila and Jalal Uddin, 35, son of Shamsul Haque of Khariza Jongra village in Hatibandha. Tapos Kumar, officer in-charge of Hatibandha police station, said on secret information, they raided the area and arrested the duo along with 12 fake Tk 500 notes and a fake Tk 100 note.

Bus strike on two roads protesting extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Manikganj

Bus services on Harirampur-Manikganj-Dhaka and Harirampur-Singair-Dhaka routes came to a halt yesterday morning as the owners and workers enforced an indefinite strike protesting illegal toll collection.

District Bus-Minibus Owners' Association and District Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union jointly gave the strike call on the two important roads.

As many as 125 buses ply the two roads everyday, but suspension of their services is causing untold sufferings to the commuters.

District Bus-Minibus Owners' Association President Kazi Enayet Hossain Tipu and Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union President Babul Sarker yesterday told this correspondent that two groups backed by Harirampur Upazila Parishad Chairman Dewan Saidur Rahman have been taking Tk 30 from each bus for each trip for the last seven days.

Foyez Uddin-- Safayet Hossain group collects illegal toll from the buses at Jhitka bus stand while Alal Hossain--Lipu group at Harirampur bus stand, they said.

"We informed the officer in-charge (OC) of Harirampur Police Station about the matter several times, but to no effect," the two leaders alleged.

The bus strike on the two roads will continue until illegal toll collection is stopped, they added.

Contacted, Foyez Uddin said they take Tk 30 from each bus for maintenance of the bus terminal. Toll collection by Alal-Lipu group at Harirampur bus stand is illegal, he added.

Refuting the allegation, Alal said they collect toll in the name of Sramik Union, which has authorised them to do the job.

OC Shawkat Ali of Harirampur Police Station said bus services on the roads have been stopped due to a conflict between two groups of transport workers over control of the two bus stands.

Manikganj district administrator Golam Mohiuddin has taken an initiative to resolve the problem. He will hold a meeting with Bus-Minibus Owners' Associations President Kazi Enayet Hossain Tipu, Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union president Babul Sarker in his office tonight.



PHOTO: STAR

Club Super Market, Shaheed Satu Hall and New Market-- three important areas of Chapainawabganj town--go under water even after a light shower. This photo was taken recently.

Prisoner flees hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kushtia

An under trial prisoner while undergoing treatment at police custody fled Chudanga Sadar Hospital on Saturday.

Aminul, son of Aiyub Ali of Kolabari in Damurhuda upazila, was rushed to the hospital on Friday night after he fell sick following a chest pain.

But he managed to escape from the hospital when two police constables--Zafar and Alimuddin--were on duty, said Azizul Haq, officer in-charge of Sadar police station.

CHHATAK CEMENT COMPANY LTD. Chhatak, Sunamganj. AN ENTERPRISE OF BANGLADESH CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION (BCIC)	
BCIC TENDER NOTICE	
01. Ministry / Division: Ministry of Industries/BCIC.	
02. Name of Organization: Chhatak Cement Co.Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamganj.	
03. Tenders Reference No. & Date: (a) Pur/A/227/RT(1)/2011-12/2012-13/319 dt.12-08-2012. (b) CCCL/PUR/B/05/2012-13/320 dt. 12-08-2012 (c) CCCL/PUR/C/MOTOR/RT(1)/2012-2013/321 dt.12-08-2012. (d) CCCL/PUR/G/19/2012-2013/322 dt. 12-08-2012.	
04. Brief Description of Materials/Works: (a) Roller Chain Link for Apron Conveyor (b) Printing Materials. (c) Supply, Installation, Commissioning & Performance of Slip Ring High Tension Induction Motor (250KW, 335HP) or Supply, Installation, Commissioning & Performance of equivalent LT Motor (440V) with suitable Control Panel. (d) Spare Parts for TCM Wheel Loader.	
05. Time for Completion of Delivery/Works: Within (a) 60 days (b) 30 days. (c) 20 days (d) 30 days.	
06. Eligibility of Tenderers: Following documents must be submitted alongwith the offer: Attested photocopy of a)Trade Licence, b) TIN Certificate, c) VAT Registration Certificate, (d) Agency Certificate (if agent).	
07. Price of Tender documents: (a), (b), (d) Tk. 400.00 & (c) Tk. 500.00 only per set of each tender.	
08. Amount of Tender Security (Earnest Money): (a) Tk. 15,000.00 (Fifteen thousand) (b) Tk. 7,500.00 (Seven thousand five hundred)(c) Tk. 20,000.00 (Twenty thousand) (d) Tk. 25,000.00 (Twenty five thousand) only.	
09. Name & address of the Office(s) Selling Tender documents: (a) Office of the Controller of Accounts, BCIC Head Office, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, (b) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong (c) Accounts Deptt, Chhatak Cement Co.Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamganj.	
10. Name & address of the Office(s) Receiving & Opening Tenders: General Manager (Comm.) Chhatak Cement Co.Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamganj.	
11. Last Date & time for selling Tenders documents: 02-09-2012 at Office hours.	
12. Last Date & time for submission of Tenders: 03-09-2012 at 3-00 P.M.	
13. Date & Time for Opening of Tenders: 03-09-2012 at 3-15 P.M.	
14. Special Instructions: (a) The CCCL management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason. (b) Due to unavoidable circumstances if the tender shall not possible to open in schedule date & time, the same will be opened on the following working day at the same office & time.	
Md.Abdul Awal Addl.Chief Manager (Purchase) For Managing Director	