

Erosion threatens Mawa terminal, parking yard



PHOTO: STAR

The Padma continues to devour business and other establishments near Mawa launch terminal and parking yard in Louhajong upazila of Munshiganj, middle, staff of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) have kept speedboats in a line to protect the terminal and parking yard from erosion, and shop owners are shifting their shops from the area to safer places.



OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Munshiganj

Erosion by the river Padma has taken an alarming turn in Louhajong upazila of Munshiganj, putting the newly built Mawa launch terminal and parking yard on the verge of collapse.

Badrul Alam, assistant port officer at Mawa, said at least 25 to 30 feet area in the western part of the parking yard has developed cracks and may collapse anytime.

"We have kept speedboats in a line and are dumping sand bags at that point to protect the parking yard temporarily from onslaught of the river," he said.

It is widely alleged that mindless sand lifting from the river has triggered serious erosion in the area.

At least six business establishments adjacent to the launch terminal and parking yard went into the river and 10 others were shifted to other places yesterday morning.

Contacted, Louhajong Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Saiful Islam said he informed the authorities concerned of the matter and urged them to take necessary steps to protect the terminal and parking yard.

The terminal and parking yard were built at a cost of Tk one crore and Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan formally opened the both in May this year.

85 Shibir men sued in C'nawabganj, 5 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Chapainawabganj

Police on Wednesday filed two separate cases against 85 Islami Chhatra Shibir leaders and activists of the district unit with Sadar model police station on charge of attacking police men.

Sub Inspector Rahmat Ali of the police station filed the cases at night.

Of the accused, 15 were named while 70 others remained unidentified. Shafiq Enayet Ullah, president of district unit of the Jamaat's student front and its general secretary Golam Mostofa are among the accused.

Police also arrested five Shibir activists from different areas on Wednesday

noon and early yesterday. The arrestees are Shahidul Islam Shahin, 25, of Uttarjagannathpur village, Sohel Rana, 22, of Goshkura village, Sohel Rana, 23, of Chhatradanga village, Selim Reza, 20, of Mollan village and Sohel Rana, 23 of Kalma village.

Police produced them before the judicial magistrate court and the court sent them to jail yesterday. Golam Mortuza, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar model police station, said a group of Shibir activists brought out a procession from Octroy intersection at around 12:15 pm and started obstructing the vehicular movement and vandalising vehicles.

On information, a police patrol team rushed to the

spot and tried to stop the procession. At this, the Shibir men attacked the law enforcers with brickbats, forcing them to fire two tear gas shells and charge baton, he said.

Later, Sub Inspector Rahmat Ali filed a case against Shafiq Enayet Ullah, Golam Mostofa, Shahidul Islam, Selim Reza, Torikul Islam Nayan, Golam Zakaria, Anwar Hossain, Mohammad Hadi, Saiful Islam and Shahidul Islam Shahin under the speedy trial act.

He also filed another case against 85, identifying 15 (including the aforesaid ten) accused and keeping the rest 70 unidentified, under separate sections of Bangladesh Penal Code.

Transport strike in SW dists from Oct 9

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jessore

Transport workers yesterday announced an indefinite strike in the 21 districts of south-western region from October 9, protesting extortion on highways and demanding ban on plying of illegal bikes.

Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, Khulna divisional unit, announced the strike at a press conference held at Jessore Press Club in the evening.

General secretary of the organisation Abdur Rahim Bux Dudu, said the transport workers are widely extorted and repressed by the local criminals at Daulatdia, Paturia, Maowa ferry terminals and Dhamrai in Manikganj.

We informed the local police stations several times but they did not pay heed to our plea, he said.

Moreover, police harassment also increased, leaving us with no alternative to calling strike from October 9, Dudu added.

The organisation placed a 11-point demand including end to vandalism and setting vehicles on fire, punishment to those responsible for road accidents, ban on plying of Nasimon, Karimon, Alamsadhu and other locally made vehicles on highways and withdrawal of cases against the transport owners and workers.

Sadiq Ahmad Khan, acting president, Emdadur Rahman, vice-president of the federation and leaders of Jessore, Meherpur, Magura, Jhenidah and Chuadanga transport unions were present at the press conference.



PHOTO: STAR

Fateha Nurani has continued teaching at AN Sammiloni Girls' High School in Magura town for the last 15 years, although she has not got any salary during the period.

Fateha torn between passion for teaching and deprivation

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

World Teachers Day being observed today holds very little meaning to Fateha Nurani, a teacher of AN Sammiloni Girls' High School in the town, as she has not got any salary even after 15 years of service at the institution.

Fateha, who joined as an assistant teacher for the senior section (classes IX and X) of the school at Niznanduali village under Magura municipality in 1997, is still outside the payroll as the section has remained outside the government's monthly payment order (MPO).

"Now I feel embarrassed to introduce myself as a teacher as I have not got any salary during my 15 years' service. But I cannot resist the urge to attend classes when the school bell rings. The school is adjacent to my house and I have developed a deep passion for teaching," Fateha told this correspondent on Wednesday.

However, in recognition to her selfless service and outstanding performance in educating young learners, Rural Development Concern, a voluntary organisation for the welfare of women and children, accorded her a reception at a programme marking World Rural Women's Day on October 17 last year.

AN Sammiloni Girls' High School was

established in 1995 and subsequently its junior section (classes VI to VIII) was listed for MPO.

The school has now over three hundred students but its senior section has remained outside the MPO although 14 schools and madrasas in four upazilas of the district got MPO in the financial year 2009-10.

Besides Fateha, two other teachers of the school -- Khan Rakibul Haque and Beloara Khanam are also in the same boat for the last 14 years.

When asked, District Education Officer Ruhul Amin Khondoker said, "The ministry concerned is the lone authority to sanction MPO on the basis of local lawmaker's recommendation."

Contacted over cell phone, lawmaker of Magura-1 constituency Prof Mohammad Serajul Akbar said, "I had given demand order (D/O) letter for the MPO listing of the senior section of AN Sammiloni Girls' High School, but the D/O was not honoured by the ministry. Earlier the junior section of the school got MPO following my recommendation."

Rizia Begum, headmistress of the school, said, "In spite of her financial deprivation, Fateha always teaches the students with a smiling face, giving an impression of a dedicated teacher. But I have nothing to do regarding her salary as the senior section is still struggling to get MPO."

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Student commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

A college student allegedly committed suicide yesterday morning at a mess at Hazipara in the district town following a feud with a girl he was in love with.

Deceased Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury, 23, was son of Delwar Hossain Chowdhury of Akhanagar village and a student of MA in English at Dinajpur Government College.

Police said that the youth committed suicide in the morning by hanging himself from the ceiling fan of his room.

The incident followed a feud with the girl he loved, police said quoting a chit that the youth left before committing suicide.

At about 9:00am his fellows found his room shut from inside for long. Sensing something wrong, they broke open the door and saw the body hanging from the ceiling.