

Kalaiya canal in Baufal shrinking fast

Illegal structures mushroom on both banks

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Kalaiya canal in Baufal upazila under the district is getting narrowed fast as local influential people are constructing buildings and tin-shed structures on the canal land on its both banks.

At least 150 illegal establishments have already been built in about half a kilometre stretch from Kalaiya launch terminal to the 'paddy market' area.

Originated from Tentulia River, the 20-km-long Kalaiya canal connects the Lohali River via Baufal upazila town and Boga union. The canal is 80 to 150 feet wide.

A pavement has been constructed on the canal bank in Kalaiya launch terminal area and many locals are building houses on the canal bank.

During a visit to the area a couple of days ago, a few

journalists met Abdur Razzak Howlader, who is constructing a building in the launch terminal area with pillars on the canal bank.

Asked by the newsmen, he said, "I am constructing building on the land that I had earlier bought. The land was eroded by the canal. Many others are also constructing buildings beside the canal. Why are you ask-

ing me alone over the matter?"

Shawkat Haider, former president of Baufal upazila unit of Swachhasebok League, and a few members of his family built at least 12 business establishments cum houses on the canal bank in Kalaiya Bazar area.

"We constructed establishments on our own land that had been devoured by the canal," said Shawkat Haider.

The canal is becoming narrower due to setting up of establishments on its bank but the local administration is overlooking the matter, said Kalam Mia of Kalaiya Bazar.

Mohammad Ali Mia, another local resident said, "Once steamers plied the canal but now small sized trawlers cannot run smoothly here as the water body has become narrow due to encroachment on both sides."

ABM Sadikur Rahman, who joined as upazila nirbahi officer of Baufal recently, said, "No land on the canal can be recorded as private property and nobody can claim ownership of newly emerged land as it is under the government's possession. Illegal establishments on the canal will be removed."



PHOTO: STAR

Illegal structures continue to occupy areas of Kalaiya canal in Baufal upazila under Patuakhali district, shrinking the famous 20-kilometre-long canal connecting Tentulia and Lohali rivers.



PHOTO: STAR

Around 50-metre area of flood control embankment on the bank of the Jamuna River in Chowhali upazila under Sirajganj district collapsed yesterday evening although the river is relatively calm during the ongoing dry season. The structure built by the Water Development Board at a cost of Tk 22 crore requires frequent repair due to faulty works, locals said.

SIRAJGANJ DOUBLE MURDER

DB police nab one

UNB, Sirajganj

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested a man in connection with the killing of former general secretary of the Sirajganj Motor Sramik Union Nasir Uddin and his brother-in-law, from Raipur Rail Station area in the town on Wednesday.

The arrestee was identified as Nurul Islam, 45, son of late Zahurul Islam of Kashiata village of Sadar upazila.

Sub-inspector of the DB police Rakibul Hasan, also investigation officer of the double murder case, said they launched a drive in the area and arrested Nurul

Islam at about 11.00am.

Sramik Union leader Nasir Uddin died and at least 10 people, including his brother-in-law Shakil Ahmed Tikka, an activist of the union, were injured in a clash between two rival groups over lifting sand from the Jamuna River in Sirajganj Sadar upazila on September 02, 2012.

Later, Tikka died at a hospital in Dhaka city. Abdus Sattar, another Sramik Union leader, was then made the key accused in the double murder case. The arrestee, Nurul Islam, is a close aide to Abdus Sattar. He was produced before a court that sent him to jail.

SCHOOLGIRL RAPE IN BAGERHAT

Five get RI for life

UNB, Bagerhat

A court here on Wednesday sentenced five people, four of them siblings, to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) each for violating a schoolgirl after abduction in 1999.

The convicts are Abdul Halim Talukdar, Alam Talukdar, Hemayet Talukdar and Adam Ali Talukdar, all sons of late Hingul Uddin Talukdar and Nazibor Rahman Hawlader, son of late Ahmad Hawlader.

All the five are residents of Morelganj upazila.

The convicts were also fined Tk 5,000, each, in default, to suffer two months' more RI. According

to the prosecution, Abdul Halim along with the four others abducted a girl, who was a class VIII student at local KG Girls High School, on her way home from private tutor's house on October 31, 1999.

They violated the teenager keeping her confined to a house for two months.

On information, police rescued the girl on January 19, 2000. Victim's father filed a case in this connection.

After examining the records and witnesses, Judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal M Abul Bashir Munshi pronounced the verdict.

Party men loot Sramik Dal leader's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Agang, allegedly backed by rival partymen, vandalised and looted the residence of Niamul Hakim Saju, former general secretary of district Sramik Dal on Wednesday night.

The incident took place as a sequel to internal feud in district BNP party sources said.

Niamul Hakim Saju said that criminals backed by local BNP raided his residence at Sayadhangara and looted valuables after vandalising the house.

The gang threatened that no BNP politics except under the leadership of Iqbal Hasan Mahmood Tuku will be allowed. He said he was not present at the time

of attack and his family members could not identify any of the attackers.

Mirza Mostafa Zaman, former president of district JCD, said Saju is a diehard leader of BNP and went to jail several times including for train burning case. It is painful that his residence was attacked by partymen, he said, demanding punishment of the culprits.

Earlier five top ranking leaders of BNP, including president of central Tanti Dal, were manhandled in Sirajganj due to internal feud.

Contacted, Azizur Rahman Dulal, organising secretary of district BNP, said he did not know anything about the incident.

BAMONDIGHI INCIDENT

Roadblock protesting arrest of locals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Bamondighi people yesterday blocked Rangpur-Dinajpur highway, demanding unconditional release of the locals who were held during a clash with police over a mosque in Taraganj upazila on Wednesday.

The road barricade started at 9:30am and continued till 3:30pm.

Police and witnesses said, a group of local people attacked the houses of Ahmadiyyas over the construction of a mosque of their faith and set ablaze two houses of the community people on Wednesday.

The clash erupted at noon as police prevented local people from demolishing the under-construction mosque.

Police and local people filed two separate cases in this connection and police arrested 11 people for their alleged involvement in the incidents.

Protesting the arrests, locals barricaded the highway for five hours at Bamondighi point yesterday.

On information, local lawmaker and high officials of the district, police and union parishad chairman rushed to the spot.

Later, around 3:30pm, the agitated people removed the barricades after a discussion with lawmaker Anisul Haq.



Vehicular movement at Kawrakandi point of Mawa-Kawrakandi ferry route in Shibchar upazila under Madaripur district has turned highly risky and time consuming as the adjoining road, allegedly made with low quality materials, got badly damaged due to the continual downpour for the last three days.

PHOTO: STAR

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