

11 KV transformer kept at public place, poses risk

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

An 11 kilovolt (KV) electric transformer of Power Development Board (PDB) has remained in an unsafe condition at a busy place of Nilphamari municipality area for the last six months, thanks to the callousness of the authorities concerned.

The high voltage transformer, connected with main lines of national grid with heavy metal wires, is set on a trolley, occupying part of the road beside a children's playground at Shantinagar under ward No-5 of the municipality. The iron net enclosure around it has wide gaps, making it highly risky.

Visiting the spot on Thursday (December 5), this correspondent saw some young boys holding and peeping through the iron net, looking for their tennis ball that fell inside while playing.

The transformer receives 11 KV electricity from the national grid's supply line and after undergoing process converts it into 440-volt for consumption of thousands of clients, PDB sources said.

If anyone touches any part of the risky transformer out of curiosity even with a stick or something, he might be electrocuted and sparks might lead to devastating fire, they said.

As per rule, such a transformer is to be set on electric poles, at least 10 feet above the ground with special protective arrangements.

But PDB men set the unsafe transformer on road to continue electricity supply in the area after the regular transformer, set on high poles in proper way,



PHOTO: STAR

Children try to get back their tennis ball from inside the cage containing a high-voltage transformer at Shantinagar in Nilphamari town, thanks to the callousness of the authorities concerned who kept the transformer in such a risky condition.

went out of order about six months ago, locals said.

They took the regular transformer to workshop for repair with commitment to reset it very shortly but it has not been done in six months.

Locals said they are now in panic as the new transformer sparks very often due to touching with something blown by air. Even tempo-

rary short circuit due to technical reasons is not uncommon.

Everyday, thousands of people including school students and patients use this road to go to nearby district hospital and educational institutions, said Anil Roy, a resident of the area.

"I am particularly anxious for children who play beside the risky trans-

former as their balls very often fall inside the transformer cage and they try to get it back risking lives," said college teacher Anwar Hossain, also a resident of the area.

Municipal councillor of ward No-5, Abdul Jalil said he had brought the matter to the notice of local PDB officials a number of times but to no effect yet.

Rubel Ahmed, executive engineer of Nilphamari PDB, said, "We had set up the transformer on ground on temporary basis. We could not bring a new transformer from the divisional office at Rangpur due to frequent hartals and blockades, enforced by political parties. As soon as the situation becomes normal, we will not make

93-yr-old freedom fighter struggles for existence

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Freedom fighter Nasim Uddin, now 93, who risked his life to save his fellow countrymen from the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War in 1971, is now fighting for life without treatment and nutrition at his hut at Mogholhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Nasim's wife Rabeya Begum said, "My husband could not take anything except liquid items for the last 20 days. But I could not afford to purchase any juicy food except 250 litres of cow milk daily for him. A week ago, a village doctor prescribed some medicines for him but I could not buy it due to lack of money."

"I don't know what I will eat tomorrow. I fought for independence and democracy and my country achieved it. But it seems these are not for me. Still I have dream. I have no fear of losing anything," a tearful Nasim Uddin, said as this correspondent visited him on Friday.

Nasim fought for the country's freedom during the Liberation War and saved many people, especially girls, from Pakistani soldiers, local people said.

He collected information and drew maps showing movement of Pakistani soldiers and

their camps which helped the local commander in making plans to conduct operations against the occupation forces, said Nasim Uddin's co-fighters Amol Chandra, Sharat Chandra, Amzad Hossain, Nur Uddin and Haque Miah.

"I fought against Pakistani forces in Sector 6 under the command of the then Wing Commander AKM Bashar," Nasim Uddin Miah said wistfully.

"My co-fighters receive benefits from the government, but my name is not included in the list of freedom fighters although I submitted eleven appli-

cations since 2004, the latest on June 10 this year to the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, with the recommendation of the local commanders but I am yet to get any response," he said.

At the age of 93, knowing he doesn't have too many years left to live, he wishes to receive recognition from the government before passing away.

The war veteran, who is passing the twilight of his life with his wife Rabeya Begum, 68, and their physically challenged son Naymul Islam, 44, at Mogholhat village.



PHOTO: STAR

Freedom fighter Nasim Uddin, 93, and his wife are passing days amid misery at a hut in Mogholhat village under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila as they are too poor to arrange nutrition and treatment.

Satkhira SP withdrawn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police Superintendent of the district Mollah Jahangir Hossain has been withdrawn due to his alleged failure to maintain law and order in the area.

Yesterday morning, Mollah Jahangir handed over the charges to ASP Joydev Chowdhury.

Md Maniruzzaman, deputy inspector general of police in Khulna range, said Jahangir has been withdrawn as per the order of the headquarters.

Jahangir was asked to report to the headquarters by yesterday. However, the authorities are yet to replace anyone.

At least 14 activists of Awami League were killed and hundreds others injured in attacks by Jamaat-Shibir since Mollah Jahangir was posted to the district on June 9 this year.

A local journalist was killed and another 18 were injured in the district during the period.

Elephant kills boy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A schoolboy was trampled to death by a wild elephant at Paharchanda village in Chokoria upazila yesterday morning.

Deceased Mohammad Sinha, 8, was son of Manjur Alam of the village and a class II student of a local school.

Locals said a herd of elephants entered the village and started destroying paddy on several acres of land around 7:00am. Later, the villagers made an attempt to drive away the elephants.

At one stage, the boy was trampled to death by one of the elephants, said Ranjit Kumar Barua, officer in-charge of Chokoria Police Station.

'Controversial' baby goes back to real mother

Bogra court gives the order as DNA test confirms identity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, BOGRA

A Bogra court on Wednesday ordered handing over a three-month-old baby to its real mother, following a DNA test report from Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The mother, Shefa Begum, a garments worker hailing from Kamalerpara of Saghata upazila in Gaibandha district, got back the baby the same evening.

A needy Shefa had earlier sold her baby for 15 thousand taka to Kohinur Begum of Hashraj village under Horikhali union of Sonatola upazila in the district.

On September 9 this year, Shapla Begum, wife of

Mostafa Kamal of Jatholida village under Nepaloli union of Gabtoli upazila in Bogra, gave birth to a male child through caesarean at Mohammad Ali Hospital in Bogra town at 10:00am and an unidentified woman, posing to be a well-wisher, stole the newborn at around 8:00pm the same day.

Later on September 16, being informed that a new child was found with Kohinur Begum of Hashraj village in Sonatola upazila, Shapla rushed there and demanded the child when Kohinur told her that she and her husband bought the baby for Tk 15 thousand from Shefa, who is living at Demra in the capital.

Following allegation, police from Sadar police station recovered the baby and produced in the Court of Additional Judicial Magistrate Abdul Hamid for an order to determine the real mother of the baby and the court, taking a bond, handed over the baby to Shapla until receiving a DNA test report.

On September 24, Shefa, Shapla and the baby were sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital for DNA test and the test report reached the Bogra court on Wednesday.

The court ordered handing over the baby to Shefa, Shapla broke into tears as her baby and the woman who stole the

baby remained traceless three months after the incident.

Sub-inspector of Sadar police station Aslam Hossain, also the investigation officer, said police are trying best to trace out the baby and the criminal.



PHOTO: STAR

Good yield of cauliflower fails to make farmers at Fulgachh village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila happy as price of the popular winter vegetable sees a sharp fall amid transportation problem due to continuous countrywide blockade enforced by BNP-led 18-party alliance.

CANCELLATION OF NOMINATION

AL men block rail, roads in B' baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Awami League workers blocked roads and rail in Brahmanbaria yesterday, protesting cancellation of nomination of RAM Ubaidul Muktaadir Chowdhury in Brahmanbaria-3 constituency.

Hearing the news that the party has given up the seat for Jatiya Party candidate Rejaul Karim, AL workers brought out a procession in the town at around 11:30am, protesting cancellation of Muktaadir's nomination.

They blocked the roads and rail at two points by burning tyres and putting

logs. Several Hundred AL men blocked rail tracks at Chinair and Brahmanbaria rail gate for three hours from 12:30pm.

Due to the blockade, Dhaka bound Mahanagar Probbati and Suborna Express trains from Chittagong and Chattala Express remained stranded at Brahmanbaria Railway Station and other points, causing sufferings to thousands of passengers.


At around 3:30pm, the angry AL men held a rally on the Brahmanbaria Railway Station platform with advocate Md Shahnoor, relief and reha-

bilitation secretary of district AL, in the chair.

At the meeting, the local AL leaders urged the party's parliamentary board to restore the nomination of Ubaidul Muktaadir. Otherwise, they threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme in the district.

Contacted, Muktaadir Chowdhury said, "I always honour the decision of our leader Sheikh Hasina. I must abide by my leader's advice".

Brahmanbaria Railway Station Master Amrito Lal Sarker said train services resumed on the route after 3:30pm.



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