

Mindless sand lifting from Jamuneshwari goes on

Bazar, croplands, homesteads face erosion threat

MEHEDY HASAN, Rangpur

Illegal sand lifting with dredgers from Jamuneshwari River at Nagerhaat village under Badarganj upazila of the district is posing serious threat to a local market and cultivable land and houses.

Villagers alleged that a section of unscrupulous people have been doing this callous act for a long time. They said croplands and houses along the river are threatened by erosion.

They alleged that the sand traders are doing this illegal practice in collusion with some influential local political leaders and dishonest officials in the administration.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found some dredgers lifting sand from the river. The lifters stack the extracted sand nearby and trucks take it to different areas of Rangpur and adjacent districts.

Uttam Kumar Saha of the area told this correspondent that the people involved in sand lifting are mostly influential. He said the villagers had complained several times to the authorities concerned, but to no effect. He further said that law enforcing agencies seem to be reluctant to take any action against the illegal sand lifters.



PHOTO: STAR

Illegal sand lifting from Jamuneshwari River at Nagerhaat under Badarganj upazila of Rangpur goes on unabated, posing threat to a nearby market, croplands and homesteads.

They urged the authorities concerned to take adequate measures to stop the practice in order to protect Nagerhat Bazar and its adjacent areas from erosion.

Bankim Chandra, a sand trader of the area, said they are lifting sand from the government's property.

"We are not doing any

harm to the villagers," he added.

Fazal Mian, another sand lifter, said not only he but also Khoka Mian, Tara Mian of Sonarpara, and Abdur Rashid and Abu Reza of Telipara are involved with illegal sand lifting. "If the administration stops their sand lifting, then I will stop it

too," Fazal said.

Raza Mian, another sand trader, said "if we stop sand lifting how will we maintain our families?"

Khondkar Ishtiaque Ahmed, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Badarganj, said local administration will take immediate steps to stop sand lifting from the river.

Locals besiege police station as cops beat up 3 women workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Residents of Gobindrapur Bhullidanga village Khansama upazila besieged the local police station yesterday, demanding exemplary punishment of two policemen who allegedly injured three women labourers.

The injured are Fatema Begum, wife of Abdur Rahim, Mirza Begum, wife of Ashraf Ali, and Karima Begum, wife of Nilu Rahman of the village. Of them, Fatema and Karima were admitted to a local clinic.

Moksedul Gani Rabbu Shah, chairman of Alokjhari Union Parishad, said over 40 ultra-poor people were working at the village under a food for work programme.

They were repairing a road, taking topsoil from a

nearby land owned by Abul Halim, son of Abdul Haq of the area.

As Halim lodged a complaint with Khansama Police Station, two cops rushed to the spot around 3:00pm and beat up three female workers mercilessly, leaving them injured.

Protesting the incident, the angry villagers besieged the police station for about 30 minutes from 4:00pm.

The protesters later left the area following an assurance by Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Shahinul Alam of taking punitive steps against the persons involved.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach Officer-in-Charge Krishna Sarker for his comment on the issue as he did not receive the phone calls.

Indefinite bus strike begins in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

Sherpur Bus Owners' Association went on an indefinite strike in the district yesterday morning, demanding punitive action against the extortionists.

Saiful Islam Swapan, general secretary of the association, alleged that Golam Mostafa Mastu, general secretary of Sherpur Road Transport Workers' Union, along with his associates is involved in collecting illegal tolls from the bus owners.

As the local administration failed to bring an end to extortion, they called the strike as per advice of Dhaka Division (North) Bus Owners' Oikya Parishad, he said.

He also threatened to enforce an indefinite transport strike in greater Mymensingh if the demand was not met immediately.

Golam Mostafa Mastu termed Sherpur Bus Owners' Association president Sanowar Hossain Sanu and its general secre-

tary Saiful Islam Swapan extortionists.

Superintendent of Police Mehedul Karim said they will sit with the bus owners and workers to resolve the issue.

Lightning kills 6 in 3 districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Six people were killed and seven others injured by lightning in Satkhira, Sherpur and Brahmanbaria districts yesterday.

Our Satkhira correspondent reported that four people were killed and seven others injured when thunderbolts hit them in Shyamnagar upazila.

The dead are Nurunnahar, 35, of Sora village, Sajeda Begum, 35, of Patrakhola village, Abdul Hamid, 45, of Taranipur village, and Jihad Gazi, 70, of Paranpur village. Locals said Hamid and Jihad were struck by lightning while working at their croplands.

The injured are from the same villages and undergoing treatment at Shyamnagar Upazila Health Complex. Of them, the condition of two was stated to be critical, said Officer-in-Charge Enamul Haque of Shyamnagar Police Station.

In Sherpur, 12-year-old Lucky Khatun, daughter of Anwarul Islam of Rajnagar village, was struck by lightning while she was standing on the balcony of their house during heavy rain in the morning, reports our correspondent.

Lucky was a Class V student of Madhya Nalitabari Government Primary School. She was taken to Nalitabari Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared her dead.

Away in Brahmanbaria, a farmer was hit by a thunderbolt at Satgaon village in Bijoynagar upazila yesterday morning. He died on the spot.

The deceased was identified as Nurul Amin, 50, son of late Abdul Momin of the village.

Police quoted victim's family members as saying that Amin was struck by lightning while working at his farmland near his house.

100 injured as two rival groups clash in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 100 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between two rival groups in Tupkhana area under Baniarchang upazila of Habiganj district yesterday.

Of them, 25 were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital, 16 to the upazila health complex and 11 to different private clinics.

The injured cops are Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Delwar Hosain, OC Nirmalendu Chakrabarty and constable Abdullah of Baniarchang Police Station. They are undergoing treatment at the health

complex.

Police and locals said an altercation took place between the supporters of Dhan Miah, chairman of Tupkhana Union Parishad, and one Sordar Bahar Khan over establishing supremacy in the area around 3:00pm.

At one stage, they equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other, leaving at least 97 people from both sides injured.

On information, police rushed to the spot and fired 13 bullets and two tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. The policemen sustained injuries during the incident.

Three jailed for arranging child marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A mobile court sentenced three people to 15 days' imprisonment each for arranging marriage of an underage girl at Nithok village in Kaliganj upazila of the district on Tuesday night.

The convicts are marriage registrar Enamul Haque, 40, bride's uncle Refaz Uddin, 55, of the village, and bridegroom's brother-in-law Abdul Karim, 28, of Baninagar village in the upazila.

On information, a police team went to the village at around 9:00pm and


arrested the three while they were arranging marriage of the girl.

The arrestees were later produced before the court, led by Executive Magistrate Asaduzzaman, which punished them, said Manjur Ali, officer-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station.



PHOTO: STAR

Three people, arrested on charge of arranging marriage of an underage girl at Nithok village in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat on Tuesday night, were sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment each by a mobile court.



Chittagong Port Authority Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry	Ministry of Shipping.
2	Agency	Chittagong Port Authority (CPA).
3	Procuring entity name	Chittagong Port Authority.
4	Procuring entity code	Nil.
5	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.
6	Invitation for	Supply of Computer, Printer, UPS, Scanner & Laptop.
7	Invitation Ref No.	Computer/08/2014-2015.
8	Date	18/05/2015.
9	Procurement method	Open Tender Method (OTM).
10	Budget and source of funds	CPA's Own Fund.
11	Tender publication date	10/06/2015.
12	Tender document last selling date	24/06/2015.
13	Tender submission date and time	25/06/2015, 12.00pm.
14	Tender opening date and time	25/06/2015, 12.15pm.
15	Selling tender document	(a) Office of the Systems Analyst, Chittagong Port Authority, Bandar, Chittagong-4100. Tel: 031-2510853 (b) CPA Liaison Office, Nargis Bhaban, 33, New Eskaton Road, Ismail Lane, Dhaka, Tel: 02-9339605.
16	Name & address of the office(s) receiving tender document	Office of the System Analyst, Chittagong Port Authority, Bandar, Chittagong-4100, Tel: 031-2510853.
17	Place of opening tender	Office of the System Analyst, Chittagong Port Authority, Bandar, Chittagong-4100, Tel: 031-2510853.
18	Place, date and time of pre-tender meeting	Not applicable.
19	Eligibility of tenderer	This invitation for tender is open to all related service providers of Bangladesh.
20	Brief description of goods and services	Supply of Computer, Printer, UPS, Scanner & Laptop.
21	Price of tender document	Tk. 1,000/-
22	Tender security amount	Tk. 2,00,000/- (two lac Taka only).
23	Completion time	30 (thirty) days.
24	Name of official inviting tender	Sufi Md. Shoaib.
25	Designation of official inviting tender	Systems Analyst of Chittagong Port Authority.
26	Address of official inviting tender	Office of Systems Analyst, Chittagong Port Authority, Bandar, Chittagong-4100.
27	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 031-2510853 Fax: 088-031-2510889 E-mail: sufi_md_shoaib@yahoo.com
28	Special instructions	The purchaser (procuring entity) reserves the right to accept or reject any tender either in part or in full and to annul the tendering process and reject all tenders at any time prior to award of contract, without there by incurring any liability to the affected tenderer(s) or any obligation to inform the affected tenderer(s) of the grounds for the purchaser action.

N.B: If the date of selling, submission and opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

Systems Analyst
Chittagong Port Authority

GD-2077



Open Appeal To Sheikh Hasina the Architect of Vision 2021 & The Hon'ble Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

From CAMPE, a coalition of more than a thousand NGOs, academics, researchers and education campaigners



Hon'ble Prime Minister,

Heartiest Greetings from Campaign for Popular Education.

The National Budget for 2015-16 has come up with initiatives focusing on human capacity enhancement, poverty alleviation, women and child development along with many other commendable ones. We salute you for your vision of taking Bangladesh to the status of a middle income country by 2021.

The multi-pronged initiatives undertaken by your government over the past few years have made it possible for the country to attain almost hundred percent enrollment in primary schools, gender parity at the primary and secondary levels and distribution of free text books to all learners on the first day of the school calendar. Hundreds of schools have been constructed in remote areas where there were no schools earlier. Initiatives have also been taken to expand technical & vocational education. We sincerely appreciate these forward looking interventions by the government and thank you for your commitment.

Hon'ble Leader of the House

We also notice with great concern that at a point of time when we have been expecting an increased budgetary allocation for education, the proposed budget, although higher in terms of total amount (that was allocated last year), has actually gone down in percentage terms (from 14% of total budget in 2000 to 10.71%!!). This is not commensurate with your visionary political will and strong commitment. In order to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2010, which your government had the credit to adopt after 39 years of Independence, there is no other option but to increase the budget for education.

Hon'ble Leader of the People

In order to ensure proper implementation of the NEP 2010, it is absolutely essential to have a higher budgetary allocation earmarked for education. We urge upon you to consider the following demands and oblige us with your kind consideration:

1. Increase Budget allocation to at least the level of 2014-15 budget (nearly 12%) and gradually to 20% by 2021 for full implementation of the National Education Policy 2010 and vision 2021.
2. Take appropriate measures to ensure effective and efficient utilization of budget.
3. Introduce separate pay scale and career path alongwith necessary training for teachers to attract talented people into the teaching profession and consider taking appropriate steps to meet the expectations of the teachers who have been brought under MPO.
4. Extend free and compulsory primary education from Pre-primary to Grade VIII as per guidelines of the National Education Policy.
5. To prevent drop out and reduce malnutrition, take initiatives to provide hot, cooked mid-day meals in primary schools particularly those located in remote areas like char, haor, slum, hilly and inaccessible locations.
6. Increase the allocation for stipend (which has been the same 100 TK per month, since 2003!!) to a reasonable amount and expand the program to cover all children living in remote and hard to reach areas.
7. Construct appropriate infrastructure and provide adequate learning facilities like braille books, sign language and IT based materials for children with disability.
8. Allocate enough budget for research on different aspects of education particularly on quality of education.

Hon'ble Prime Minister

We believe that only a modern technology and information based learning society can help establish a dynamic and democratic welfare state. Human capacity development efforts can help create skilled human resource, who in turn will lead the country to the middle income status. For making this vision come true it is essential for the Government to reconsider the Education Budget and increase allocation in the areas where it's needed.

We sincerely appreciate your continuous efforts to fulfill the commitment of your government to achieve 'Quality Education For All' goal and believe that timely interventions with adequate resource allocation will expedite the process.

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