

Narsingdi Zamindar Bari left to decay

BENAZIR AHMED BENU with ENAMUL HUQ

The Balapur Zamindar Bari in Paikarchar union in Narsingdi that witnessed pomp and grandeur during its glorious past is a deserted house now.

Conch shells were blown at the mansion in a solemn manner in the morning and evening as if to announce its glory. The women of the Zamindar Bari used to come to the adjacent pond together to have a bath. After the bath they used to go to the temple to perform puja rituals.

The temple too has lost its glitter. Trees and bushes have spread their roots here and there. Vagabonds have replaced the idols of gods and goddesses where snakes have now settled down. Ordinary people dare not visit the temple in fear of those snakes.

Balapur village under Paikarchar union along the Meghna river is situated on the south of Sadar upazila. Nabin Chandra Saha, father of zamindar of Balapur Kali Mohan Saha (Kali Babu) established the Zamindar Bari along the river around 17 kilometres off the upazila headquarters.

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The Balapur Zamindar Bari in Narsingdi. The decorative structure is now on the verge of collapse for lack of maintenance and repair. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Lawachhara trees won't be felled

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

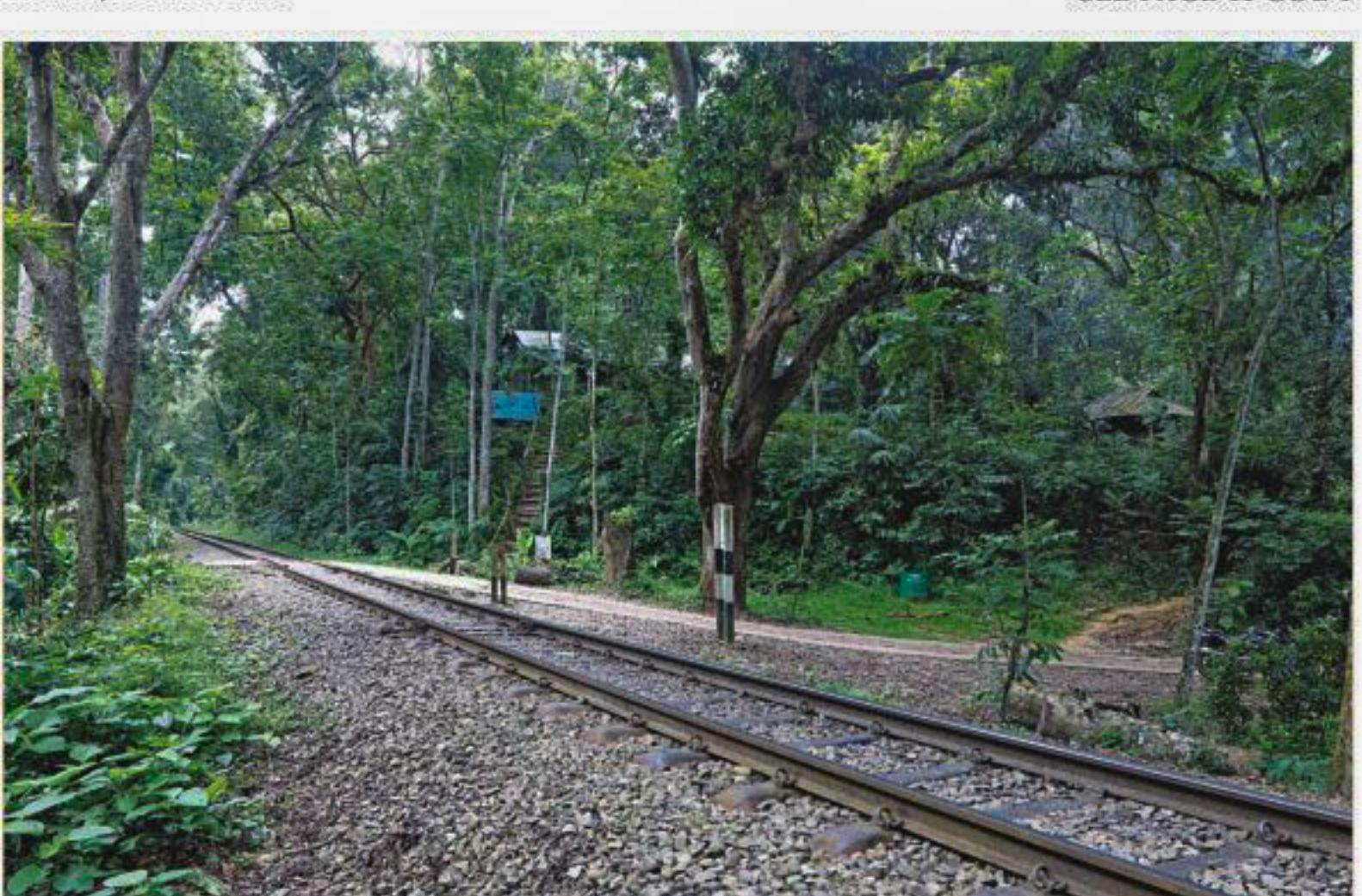
The railway authorities have withdrawn its proposal to cut down 25,000 trees along the Dhaka-Sylhet railway tracks in Lawachhara National Park in Moulvibazar.

The railway ministry yesterday held a meeting with the forest department and took the decision for the protection of the biodiversity and environment of the forest in Kamalganj upazila.

However, a three-member committee, including members from the local railway and forest departments and the upazila nirbahi officer, would be formed to identify the trees posing risks to railway passengers, said Arman Hossain, divisional engineer-II of Bangladesh Railway.

Only those trees would be cut down, he added.

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FILE PHOTO

DNCC mayor warns

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concerned of the two city corporations to explain whether they have taken any step for removing unauthorised billboards, banners, posters and other publicity materials from Dhaka.

The court had also asked the authorities to report to it by August 22, explaining if they have employed magistrates to take necessary actions against those violating relevant laws.

The HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar passed the order on August 14 following a petition by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela).

The DNCC organised yesterday's press conference to talk about its actions taken over the issue.

"We've removed 200 banners and billboards from the city after the High Court order. We will continue removing the others," Annisul said yesterday.

He said, "We've done a lot of tasks. Dhaka city is now almost free of billboards. Even after that every day we see new banners and festoons, and many of these are political."

In the past, ruling Awami League directed its activists to avoid using photographs except those of Sheikh Hasina and Bangabandhu during any political publicity.

Referring to that, Annisul said the DNCC has a written copy of the direction. He also reminded everyone that no one could use his or her own photo in any billboard for political reasons.

He, however, said, "Political and government billboards will always remain there and the DNCC will always give permission for setting them up."

Later, the mayor requested the coun-

cillors from his city corporation to take steps for the removal of illegal banners and billboards from their respective areas.

At that point, a reporter told him that many councillors themselves put up billboards and posters for their own publicity.

In reply, Annisul admitted the issue, and said "three to four" councillors are involved in the practice. He also requested them to stop doing that.

Expressing frustration over unauthorised banners and posters, he said, "We make footbridges and paint them so nicely. However, we see posters all over them the next morning. Don't you feel sorry?

"While an organisation is trying to clean the city, you are putting up posters everywhere," he said, addressing those who indulge in the illegal practice.

Billboards are also noticed on top of different local shops.

"Some companies try to publicise their brands on those billboards which is illegal," he said. He also drew everyone's attention to the use of graffiti for doing personal publicity.

Later, the mayor urged all city dwellers to take permission before setting up billboards and posters in any city corporation areas.

Contacted, Chief Executive Officer of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Khan Mohammad Bilal said they had been carrying out cleaning activities to remove unauthorised billboards and posters from the city corporation area.

The DSCC would publish an advertisement to raise public awareness about the issue, he told The Daily Star over phone.

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