

TEESTA, DHARLA RIVERS Sand lifting rampant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Illegal sand lifting with dredgers from the Dharla and Teesta rivers in 40 char areas of the district has been going on unabated for the last few months.

Abdus Sobhan, 50, a resident of Dharla river char Bowalmari in Sadar upazila said a local syndicate lifts sand from the Dharla river at three points in the char every night and the sand is being sold openly on the spot. "The syndicate earns Tk 45,000 to Tk 50,000 every day," he added.

Farmer Fazlar Rahman, 54, of Teesta char Gobardhan in Aditmari upazila said they dare not protest against the syndicate as the lifters are very influential. "Sand lifting causes erosion and many homesteads, a mosque and large areas of arable land are under threat," he added.

Truck driver Soleman Miah, 42, of Kulaghat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar said they pay Tk 300 to Tk 350 to the syndicate for one truck of sand, which they sell for Tk 1,200 to Tk 1,300 in the mainland. "Around 50 to 60 trucks of sand are sold from each spot of sand lifting in the char," he said.

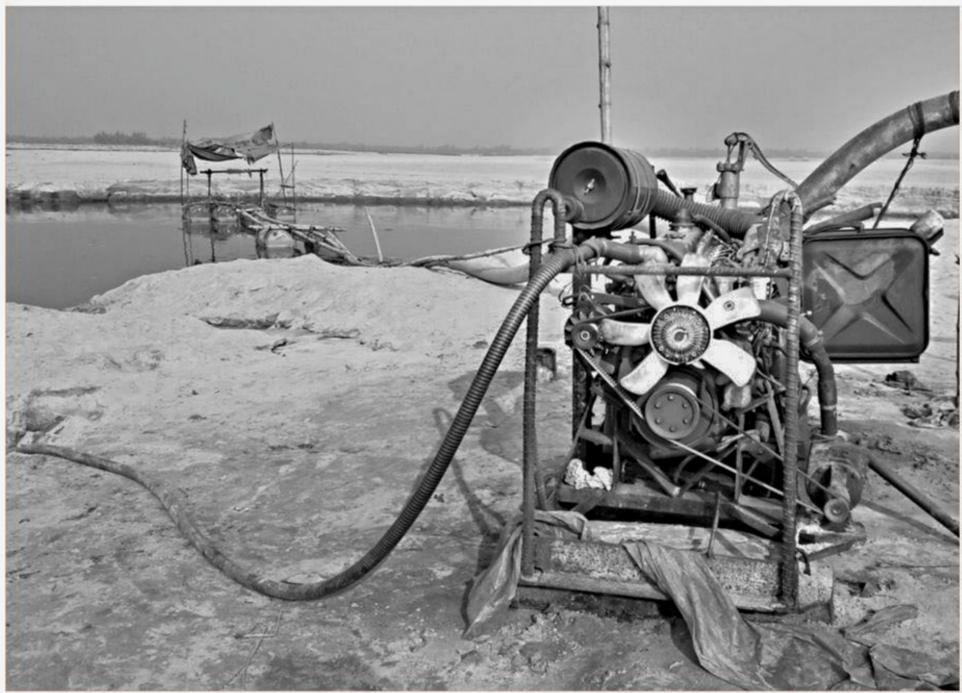
Farmer Nabiul Islam, 45, of Teesta char Kalmati said village roads are getting damaged due to frequent movement of sand-laden trucks.

Sekendar Ali, 48, a sand lifter of char Gobordhan area, said there is a huge amount of sand in Teesta river and so he lifts the sand. It does not harm the river or cause erosion, he claimed.

Water Development Board Executive Engineer Abu Bakkar said as sand is lifted from the rivers in an unplanned way it creates many deep holes in the river bed, hampering normal water flow. "We have informed the local administration about the matter, seeking legal steps to stop sand lifting," he added.

Inspector of the Department of Environment in Rangpur Saifuddin Ahmed said illegal sand lifting from the river causes erosion and erosion washes away homesteads, arable lands and trees. "Due to shortage of human resources we can't conduct drives regularly, but we will launch a special drive in this regard very soon," he added.

Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shafiqul Islam said steps will be taken to stop illegal sand lifting soon.



Sand being lifted from the Dharla river at Bowalmari char in Kulaghat union under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. The picture was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

Girl gang-raped in Barguna, youth arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police yesterday arrested a youth in a case for raping a schoolgirl in Taltali upazila of Barguna.

Arrestee Al Amin, 30, of Taltali bazar area, was later produced before a court that sent him to jail, said OC Kamollesh Chandra Hawlader of Taltali Police Station.

Police said parents of the tenth grader went to Barisal for an emergency work.

On February 22, a group of three youths led by Al Amin entered the house of the girl and raped her by turn. They also captured the video of the rape scene on their mobile phones.

Later, her father filed a case, accusing three people.

Venison seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Members of Bangladesh Coastguards in a drive seized some deer skins, heads and venison from Nishanbaria area in Patharghata upazila of Barguna early yesterday.

Hasanur Rahman, Patharghata station commander, said a patrol team of the coastguards chased a trawler in Binshkhali river carrying a group of four smugglers around 3:30am.

The coastguard members could not arrest the smugglers as they fled the scene after anchoring the trawler on the bank of the river, sensing the presence of the law enforcers.

After searching the trawler, they later recovered a bag and found three deer skins, four heads and 120 kg venison in it, the station commander said.

WHO IS GENUINE?

Two FF claimants against same ID No in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Two persons appeared before the freedom fighters' verification committee, claiming as the genuine freedom fighter against the same identification number, at Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Auditorium on Saturday.

Saidur Rahman, 78, son of late Shahab Uddin at Khochabari in Lalmonirhat municipality went there to claim his status as a freedom fighter as according to the list of India's Lalbarta, Saidur Rahman (date of birth August 1, 1939), son of Shahab Uddin, has the freedom fighter identification number 42734.

Meanwhile, Sahidur Rahman, 58, son of late Sahor Uddin of Sadeknagar village at Barabari union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila has been getting freedom fighter's benefits under the same identification number for long.

Khochabari's Saidur Rahman's voter ID card matches the name, father's name and age mentioned in the Lalbarta list

but those of Sadeknagar's Shahidur don't match the record.

"Verification committee members asked me many questions and I replied those rightly. Earlier I didn't get my name registered as a freedom fighter as I was engaged in rickshaw

commander Alif Uddin in Sector No 6, in different areas of Nilphamari and Panchagarh," he said.

Sahidur Rahman said, "I took training, fought against Pakistan occupation army and I have several co-fighters in our village. I'm Sahidur, but the Indian writer wrongly wrote my name as Saidur and my father's name was written Shahab instead of Sohor. I changed my date of birth to get a job in railway."

District Muktiyoddha Sangsad Commander Mezbah Uddin, also member of freedom fighters' verification committee, said, "Saidur Rahman failed to give proper reply to various questions about the fight for freedom and he didn't show any of his co-fighter. We didn't ask any questions to Sahidur Rahman as many of his co-fighters were present before the committee."

"We will finalise the matter after checking, cross checking and verifying the details," he said.

Landless Saidur now serves as night guard at a poultry farm for survival.



Saidur Rahman, right, and Sahidur Rahman, left, before the FFs' verification committee on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

pulling in Dhaka for many years. Later I came to know that railway employee Shahidur Rahman falsely claimed my identification number," said Saidur.

"In 1971, I fought under company

People suffer for want of bridge over Karotoa

Lone country boat ferries the villagers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

People of Kaliaganj and Barashashi unions under Boda upazila of Panchagarh have been suffering for want of a permanent bridge over Karotoa river at Bakdogra Ghat in the upazila for long.

About 20 thousand people of 30 to 35 villages have been crossing the river by a single boat for the last 45 years.

Locals, especially students, patients and farmers of Abalpara, Kayetpara, Dangapara, Phoolta, Nazirganj, Goalpara, Samandanga villages under Kaliaganj union and Munshipara, Balapara, Tokrabhasa, Bokdurjhula, Malkadanga and Khalpara under Barashashi union are the worst sufferers due to the situation, locals said.

Students and employees of different government and non-government organisations often fail to reach their destinations in

time as they have to cross the river by using small boats.

Besides, most of the students of different institutions refrain from going to schools in the rainy season, fearing risks drowning anytime.

Abdul Aziz, 35, of Abalpara village said, candidates of different political parties pledged every time for constructing the bridge before the parliamentary elections but they forgot the promise after the election.

Sakim, 22, the boatman of the ghat, said about 400 to 500 people cross the river by the single boat every day.

Abdul Malek Mondal, upazila engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department in Boda, said he visited Bakdogra Ghat recently but is yet to submit a proposal to the authorities concerned for allocation of fund to construct a bridge there.

'Teach indigenous children in mother tongue'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A child can communicate easily with others when he or she is taught in his or her mother tongue, but miscommunication occurs when the kid is taught in other languages, said Prof Shourov Sikder of Dhaka University.

He said this at a view exchange meeting here yesterday.

Local lawmaker Kujendra Lal Tripura was present as chief guest.

Officials of primary education and traditional leaders took part at the programme.

Prof Shourov suggested that indigenous children should learn their lessons in their own language.

Local government institutions in CHT must come forward to lead the way.



People of Kaliaganj and Barashashi unions under Boda upazila of Panchagarh use a small boat to cross the Karotoa river for want of a permanent bridge for long.

PHOTO: STAR

BCL leader held with Yaba, sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A court here yesterday sent a local Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader to jail, rejecting his bail prayer in a case filed for possessing Yaba.

The Judicial Magistrate's Court gave the order after he was produced before it, said police.

The accused is Shakil Ahmed, 27, president of Ward no 8 unit of BCL, and son of late Rezaul Karim of Station Para in Patgram upazila town.

He is a drug addict, said Mafizar Rahman Maznu, assistant sub-inspector of Patgram Police Station.

A police patrol team arrested Shakil with 10 Yaba tablets when he was moving suspiciously in the port area on Saturday night, the ASI said, adding that a case was filed, accusing the BCL leader.

More areas flooded in Sunamganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Flood situation in Sunamganj has worsened as more areas were inundated yesterday.

The Dhonu river flooded Soitankhali haor area on Friday while Chamordani union in Ghurmar haor was flooded by the Shomessori river yesterday. The Shomessori river is overflowing its banks.

Large areas of cropland have been flooded in the haor area under Dharampasha upazila as the flood control embankment collapsed on Friday night.

Bidyut Kanti Sarkar, an affected farmer of Chamordani village, said 200 acres of land were flooded, but upazila agricultural officer Shoaib Ahmed said only 15 to 20 acres were flooded.

Monirul Islam of Chamordani village said he cultivated paddy on seven acres, which have gone under water, adding that his neighbours also lost their paddy due to the flood only for negligence of the UP chairman.

However, chairman of Ghurmar haor embankment project, also Chamordani UP Chairman Zakirul Azad rejected the allegations.

Zakirul said, "I got Tk 10 lakh, of which I spent Tk 4.2 lakh for bamboo fence, sand bags and workers' pay."

Deputy Assistant Engineer of Water Development Board in Dharampasha upazila Ali Reza said they gave budget allocation in time, but the work could not start as the members of the project committee were changed.

Dharampasha upazila Chairman Abdul Mutalib Khan said the embankment would be repaired soon.

Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources
Power Division
Power Cell

Biddyt Bhaban (Level-10), 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh.
(www.powercell.gov.bd)

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)

for Appointment of Individual Consultant for Supervision of Turnkey Contract (Owner's Engineer) for Municipal Solid Waste Based Grid Connected Pilot Power Project at Keraniganj, Dhaka.

No: 27.71.0000.005.10.057.2017-229

Date: 23-02-2017

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Agency towards the cost of the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development II (RERED II) Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payment under the Contracts for appointment of individual consultants for supervision of turnkey contract (Owner's Engineer) for grid connected power plant based on municipal solid waste under pilot project at Keraniganj, Dhaka.
- Bangladesh Government has given significant importance to generate electricity from Renewable Energy (RE). Govt. has already set a target to generate 10% of total electricity from RE. Accordingly RE resource-wise generation target has been set upto 2021. As part of RE development program, Govt. has taken initiatives to generate electricity using Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) is in the process of selection of EPC Contractor for Design, Supply, Construction, Testing & Commissioning for the pilot project for establishing Municipal Solid Waste based 1 MW ± 10% Grid connected Power Plant on Turnkey Basis at Keraniganj, Dhaka. Now BPDB requires Owner's Engineer for evaluation of technical & financial bids and for the supervision and monitoring of this Project.
- The key functions of the consultant are to review and finalize design, drawing and specification; assist Project Director in technical and financial evaluation, monitoring and supervision of the project, overseeing of construction, testing and commissioning of the power plant etc. Detail scope of services is given in the TOR.
- The list of specialists and their required eligibility are given below:
 - Lead Expert (International):** Candidates should have at least a Bachelor's degree in Engineering or a Master's degree in Science with 10 years relevant and proven experience in the relevant field;
 - Junior Expert (International):** Candidates should have at least a Bachelor's degree in Engineering or a Master's degree in Science with 5 years relevant and proven experience in the relevant field;
 - Expert (National):** Candidates should have at least a Bachelor's degree in Engineering or a Master's degree in Science with 5 years relevant and proven experience in the relevant field.
- The consultants will be selected based on the following evaluation criteria:
 - Educational Qualification
 - Overall Work Experience
 - Relevant Work Experience
 - Local/Regional Work Experience
- Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) can be downloaded from websites of Power Cell (www.powercell.gov.bd), BPDB (www.bpdb.gov.bd) and UNDB from the date of publishing of EOI. Expression of Interest must be delivered to the address below within 30th March, 2017, 17:00 hrs BST. Any submission received after the deadline will not be accepted. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without showing any reason.

(Mohammad Hossain)
Director General

Tel: 88 (02) 9551261, 9555962, 9566099, 9556577
Fax: 88 (02) 9554664, 9572097
E-mail: dg@powercell.gov.bd