

'Save Gupinathpur pond'

Habiganj mayor seeks media help, saying grabbers are very powerful

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Members of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), Habiganj unit, yesterday demanded removal of illegal structures along a pond, locally known as Gupinathpur pond, in Chirakandi area of the town.

They submitted a memorandum to Habiganj Deputy Commissioner Monish Chakma in this regard. Earlier on Sunday, they visited the pond on about 60 decimals of land and found that grabbing was continuing.

Mizanur Rahman Mizan, a resident of Chirakandi area, said some local influential people have been occupying three sides of the pond for long. Another portion of the pond is attached to a road.

Habibur Rahman, former councilor of Habiganj municipality, said locals and traders also dumped wastes on the embankment of the main pond.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities concerned are yet to take steps to clean the garbage, he said.

Freedom fighter Md Ali Mumin, another resident of the area, said during the monsoon, it becomes almost impossible to live in the area due to the floating garbage.

Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bapa, Habiganj unit, said the encroachment by land grabbers had narrowed the width of the main pond. Several illegal bamboo structures were seen on the pond.

The grabbers have already occupied 30 decimals of the pond due to negligence of the authorities.

Mayor of Habiganj municipality GK Gaus said the land grabbers are very powerful. In this regard, the municipality needs media help. The municipality will try to conduct drives against illegal structures, he added.



Land grabbing continues along a pond, locally known as Gupinathpur pond, in Habiganj town. Inset, members of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Habiganj unit, submit a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Monish Chakma yesterday to save the pond from the grabbers.

PHOTO: STAR



Schoolboy kills self in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A tenth grader took his life by hanging himself in Ramdia Bazar area under Kashiani upazila of Gopalganj on Monday.

An image of a whale drawn with a blade was found on the victim's left hand, said Md Shamim Uddin, sub-inspector of Ramdia Police Outpost.

Deceased Rafikul Islam 16, son of Abul Hossain Sheikh of Chapta village also wrote F-57 on the right hand and drew a cross sign on his chest, he said.

The SI suspected that the boy might have committed suicide after being influenced by sick online game 'Blue Whale'.

The victim's elder brother Sourav Talukdar, a school-teacher, said "I returned home from school around 1:00pm and found the door of our house was locked from inside."

"Later, I broke open the door with the help of neighbours and found Rafikul hanging from a ceiling fan. My brother used a laptop to play games," said Sourav.

He also said they found a diary in which Rafikul wrote "Don't play Blue Whale Game."

Officer-in-Charge of Kashiani Police Station AKM Ali Nur said they recovered the body of Rafikul and his diary from the room.

Bicycle for meritorious girls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Forty girls of different schools and madrasas in Delduar upazila of the district have got bicycles for easy communication to and from educational institutions.

Delduar upazila parishad distributed the bicycles free of cost among the poor and meritorious students of 40 institutions at a programme at Delduar upazila parishad auditorium yesterday.

Tangail Deputy Commissioner Khan Mohammad Nurul Amin handed over the gift during a programme on drugs abuse, jointly organised by Delduar upazila administration and Department of

Narcotics Control (DNC).

Besides, 1710 students of 38 different primary schools in the upazila received tiffin boxes while 1550 girl students of seven girls' high schools and madrasas got sanitary pads," Delduar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shahadat Hossain Kabir said.

Among others, Tangail Superintendent of Police Mahub Alam, Upazila Parishad Chairman SM Ferdous Ahmed, Assistant Director of DNC Abu Raihan Rasel and Officer-in-Charge of Delduar Police Station Jahirul Islam, were present on the occasion.



Delduar upazila parishad distributes bicycles among the poor and meritorious girls of different schools and madrasas free of cost to facilitate the girls' easy communication to and from their educational institutions.

PHOTO: STAR

Jamuna furious in Bogra, Sirajganj

Dharla and Teesta threaten to wash away villages in Lalmonirhat

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The Jamuna river has devoured vast areas in Sariakandi upazila of Bogra while erosion by the river has taken a serious turn in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj.

The Dharla and Teesta rivers are threatening to wash away ten villages in three upazilas of Lalmonirhat.

Locals said the right bank of the Jamuna from Dhalirkandi in Kutubpur union to Sheikhpara Ghughumari village in Chandan Baisha union suddenly started breaking down from last Wednesday.

Chan Mia, 70, of Dhalirkandi said local politicians assure them that erosion will never occur again, but his homestead has been eroded by the Jamuna river.

Bulbuli Begum, 60, wife of Shamsul Haque of the same village lost her 10 decimals of land. "I don't know what to do now," Bulbuli said.

Farmers said arable land has been devoured by the river and floodwater has left silt on the croplands, which makes it impossible to prepare the lands for farming, so they have to take up fishing to survive.

"The problem of river erosion is nothing new here. I informed the authorities concerned

repeatedly, but no steps have been taken to solve it," said Kutubpur Union Parishad Chairman Imran Ali Rony.

Water Development Board (WDB) Divisional Officer Moyez Uddin said a project of Tk 301 crore is being implemented to stop erosion in a 5.9 km stretch from Dhalirkandi to Roudah.

Meanwhile, erosion by the river has taken a serious turn in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj during the last few days.

A total of five kilometres in five unions of Shahzadpur face threat of erosion due to lack of protection work.

"There is no protection work downstream of the river at Enayetpur, so the river is engulfing river banks quickly," said Sub-Divisional Engineer Md Abdul Wahab.

Ismail Hossain of Gudibari village said around 600 metres of land were eroded in the last few days.

Amzad Hossain of Vatpara village said the river engulfed about 200 metres of Vatpara Natunpara on Friday and the market and 300 houses are threatened.

Many educational institutions are under threat, said Nurjahan Khatun, headmaster of Hordighulia Government Primary School.

Engineer Abdul Wahab said Vatpara and Gudibari points of Jamuna river are out of Sirajganj WDB's jurisdiction, so they cannot take any steps there.

Ten villages in Lalmonirhat are under threat of erosion by the Teesta and Dharla rivers.

Villagers fear that erosion may devour their villages at any time if there is no emergency protection work to check it.

"If WDB takes emergency steps, our village can be saved from erosion by the Dharla," said Moslem Uddin, 65, of Shiberkuti village in Sadar upazila.

Dawabari Union Parishad Chairman Rezzakul Islam said the village may be devoured by the Teesta at any time. "I informed the WDB authorities, but no step has been taken yet," he added.

Sub-Divisional Engineer Md Al-Mamun said they are working on temporary basis to check erosion at the most vulnerable points. "Permanent work is also going on in some areas to check erosion by the Teesta and Dharla rivers," he added.

Our correspondents from Bogra, Pabna and Lalmonirhat contributed to the report.

Adulterated fertilizer seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Detective Branch (DB) of Police seized one metric ton and 50 kg adulterated fertilizer from a pick-up at the embankment of Dinajpur irrigation canal under Teesta irrigation project in Kanial Khata village of Sadar upazila on Monday night.

They also arrested three people in this connection. The arrestees are Babul Sardar, 45, of Chirir Bandar upazila, pick-up driver Gopal Das, 30, and his helper Krishna Das, 20, of Saidpur upazila.

DB Sub-Inspector Biswadev Roy said a patrol team of police arrested the three with the adulterated fertilizer worth about Tk 50 thousand.

They also seized the pick-up, said the SI.

During primary interrogation, the arrestees confessed to police that they collected the fertilizer from a rented house in Saidpur upazila headquarters.

A case was filed in connection with the incident, he said.

Girl gang-raped

Four alleged rapists arrested in Pirganj upazila

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Four people were arrested yesterday in Pirganj upazila of the district on charge of raping a teenage girl at Balabari village early Saturday.

The arrestees are Lutfar Rahman, 32, Sohag, 28, Zia, 32, and Rezaul Karim, 40, of the upazila.

Pirganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Amiruzzaman told this correspondent over cellphone that a 15-year-old female worker of a restaurant was gang-raped early Saturday in Balabari village by the arrestees.

The girl works in a restaurant in Pirganj upazila headquarters and lives in her uncle's house in Raghunathpur village.

She went to her village home at Boirchuna, around 20 km from the upazila headquarters, on Thursday afternoon.

On Friday evening, her uncle's neighbour Rezaul phoned the girl saying her uncle was ill and asked her to come to Raghunathpur immediately.

Hearing the news, the girl started for Raghunathpur the same night. After knowing that the girl was coming, Rezaul waited for her in Balabari village.

When the auto-rickshaw reached the place, Rezaul intercepted it and took her down from it.

Later, Rezaul and his accomplices took her to a sugarcane field and raped her. They fled the scene as the girl became senseless.

When the girl regained consciousness in the morning, she went to her uncle's house and was later admitted to Pirganj Upazila Health Complex.

On information, Superintendent of Police Farhat Ahmed took her to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital for better treatment.

Victim's mother Anara Begum filed a rape case with Pirganj Police Station on Saturday night, accusing Rezaul, Lutfar and four other unidentified people, the OC said.



Chan Mia of Dhalirkandi village in Sariakandi upazila of Bogra pointing out where his homestead was before the Jamuna river washed it away. Inset, Erosion by the Jamuna river has taken a serious turn in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj.

PHOTO: STAR

